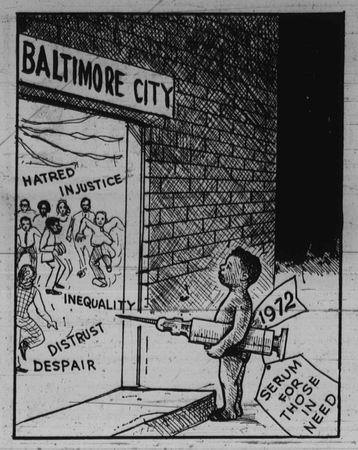

OUR READERS SAY

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.

Bascom-Fire Board

Dear AFRO:

Much attention has been given in the press and the local news media regarding Mayor Donald Schaefer's recent appointments to the Fire Board.

To be sure, his appointees to the Fire Board and other municipal agencies represent the traditional changing of administrations in Baltimore City.

The appointments to the Fire Board could be characterized as routine except for the fact that the press and the news media have injected a gratuitous element.

In this connection, Rev. Marion Bascom, who has been replaced, has been frequently alluded to as a "controversial" person while a member of the Fire Board.

I believe that the press and the news media do a great disservice to the Rev. Mr. Bascom and to the cause of rationality in simply describing him as a "controversial" figure.

As a regular reader of the newspaper, I have been generally impressed with the efforts that you have made to provide objectivity and accuracy in your coverage.

Your reporting, vis-a-vis, the Rev. Mr. Bascom, does not measure up to the objectivity and thoroughness that have usually characterized your reporting.

It would have been of value to the reading public to know "why" the Rev. Mr. Bascom was described as "controversial" as a member of the Fire Board.

It would have also been of value to the readership to know what circumstances prompted the Rev. Mr. Bascom to take some of the postures that he did as a member of the Fire Board.

And finally, the characterization of his Black replacement as "much more conservative" than the Rev. Mr. Bascom is insulting and demeaning.

Surely, as you must know, it is hardly possible to be conservative, whatever that means, on issues of human decency and freedom of opportunity.

The Rev. Mr. Bascom is a man of high acumen, sagacious understanding, and possesses a strong commitment to human improvability.

The writer does not intend this letter to be an apologia in behalf of the Rev. Mr. Bascom, but he hopes that the letter will serve as an indication of the quality of service that the Rev. Mr. Bascom brought to the Fire Board and the larger Baltimore community.

Truth dictates, objectivity requires, and morality commands that we understand the singular contributions of service that this man has rendered not only to the Fire Board but to many disparate groups in Baltimore City.

The writer suggests that we need more "controversial" men of the Rev. Mr. Bascom's stature to help us end ancient human wrongs and injustices in our community.

SAMUEL L. BANKS

For Dr. Selznick

Dear AFRO:

I thank God, for Dr. Harrie M. Selznick's truthful article. For those who do not know Dr. Selznick, he has headed our Baltimore, Special Education Department in this city school system for 16 years.

He has really "laid it on the line." I have prayed for many years that the truth would be brought out about our Special Education System here.

I am in agreement with Dr. Selznick about many things.

With so many problems facing our Special Education children, there is a dire need for nothing but dedicated sincere and devoted teachers in our entire system.

I know, because I was a dedicated former teacher in the Special Education Curriculum. I am now doing "per diem substitute teaching.

Again, I say there is a need for dedicated teachers similar to those of years past.

I have had several occasions to meet Dr. Selznick in personal conferences pertaining to school matters. He is a fine, honest person. May God keep him telling the truth for the benefit of all humanity.

MRS. IDA A. SNOWDEN
a former Special Education Teacher

In Appreciation

Dear AFRO:

I would like to thank the merchants who helped make our Christmas party a success.

Special thanks are due Mr. Edward Courtney for his most generous gift, and I am sure if he could have seen the faces of all those children it would have been reward enough.

This party was given by the Family Day Care Mothers of Lafayette Homes for children, whose mothers are working or going to school to become better and self supporting citizens.

It gives one a little more hope and faith in these trying times of hate and turmoil to know that there are still wonderful and kind people in the world, people who are still concerned about someone else.

Ms. BESSIE PELZER, sec.
Ms. EULA EVANS, Chairman

Our Credo

I measure a newspaper not in buildings, equipment and employes —those are trimmings.

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

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 injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

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

New Year's Resolve

As we enter a new year, Baltimoreans are faced with a myriad of problems which, in our judgment, would require a form of vaccination to protect us against the evil forces which surround us.

We would hope this innoculation would protect us against jumping to conclusion, labeling others who disagree as racists or controversial, discrediting our own who work diligently for righteous causes.

We foresee the need to vaccinate our public officials so that they stop mouthing venom and truly serve the total population and share the goodies — from the State House jobs to the judiciary and on down the line.

We would wish our 1972 baby could inject those who have the gall to create a public defender system manned with all white executives, paid handsome fees.

We would hope the New Year would vaccinate us to help us maintain our equilibrium as we expose such injustices and champion those who say they are for equality but perpetuate inequities.

We would wish some of our public figures, members of minority groups themselves, would remember from whence they come and keep their feet off our backs.

We would spread the vaccination to the black community, so that we have the stamina and the inspiration and the will to work hard to continue to register to vote to keep in office our friends who have the courage to speak for right and prepare now to turn out of office those who dare support the status quo.

An open letter in this issue suggests Baltimore is in a period of great crisis.

Another criticizes the unfair characterization of the Rev. Mr. Bascom, who did a tremendous job as a member of the outgoing Fire Board.

We couldn't agree more but there is no need to lose faith. We have weathered crises before. We have suffered defeat before.

Out of these disappointments we grow stronger. We can do so in 1972 if we vow now and through the New Year to not let personal ambitions, corrode our ability to contribute effectively to community progress, agree to counsel together for the common good.

We must prod, expose, vaccinate our public officials and fellow citizens who spread hatred, promote understanding and push our fight for right or else our sores will fester and destroy us all.

Black Flag In Schools

The AFRO-AMERICAN on last Dec. 7 said in an editorial relating to a resolution to fly the Black Flag in Newark schools:

"It is hard to see what real educational value is to be expected from such a resolution. On its face, no matter what the intent, the result of the flying of such flags within the Newark school system would be divisive.

"Passage of the resolution comes at a time when elsewhere in the country black students are making a more significant struggle to remove confederate flags and other symbols of one-race status from their schools.

". . . Nor is there any good reason why every race within a school system should have, or even want, its own flag hanging officially in the schools.

"In attempting to develop pride and awareness of identity and a sense of potential in our children, the danger of creating some of the un-American type things we seek to destroy in others must be kept in mind."

The AFRO takes that same position on the idea of flying the Black Liberation Flag in Baltimore's public schools, as recommended by Norman Carroll, prime minister of the Black Concepts.

There are suitable places for the Black Flag.

The public schools of Baltimore are not among those places.

Baltimore's Board of School Commissioners would be wise to turn down this recommendation and move on to some of the more important educational matters with which it must deal.

Mr. Lacy's Present

AFRO's Sam Lacy marked his 28th anniversary with the AFRO on December 27th.

Last month he was cited by PRO, the official National Football League weekly program. He led all Baltimore sports editors and football writers in predicting the winners of NFL games played this season. His score—30 right, 17 wrong.

Frequently during the years our Mr. Lacy has been ribbed by fans and coworkers when a single prediction of a winner proved wrong.

We are glad to know that NFL recognizes his merit and we hope AFRO readers will take due note and join us in giving him an extra pat on the back.

Child Care Bill

The chances for Congress to pass legislation which help poor and low-incomed people seem to be decreasing rapidly.

The Nixon Administration continues to hurl threats of veto every time it appears both houses of Congress appear to be in line to adopt laws which will help the poverty-stricken or minority groups. And when these threats fail to do the job, the President takes the matter in hand and vetoes the measure, just as he did the child care bill.

Mr. Nixon vetoed the bill with the explanation that the child care services for working mothers is "irresponsible," yet for the past two years the President has been telling everyone that he was in favor of child care.

In other words, Mr. Nixon is for child care in theory, but he is against this particular bill. This kind of alibi will become harder and harder to understand as the little children and the working mothers who would have benefited by this bill become fully cognizant of their plight and the failure of the administration to help remedy it.

Congress still has an opportunity to right this wrong and should waste no time in so doing.

American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition should be classed with the enemy."
(From The AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

TOGETHER

Black Community Is In A Crisis

Dear AFRO:

As this new year commences, the black community in Baltimore, like other black communities across the nation, faces a crisis of such epic proportions that it can be compared to the period at the close of the Reconstruction Era.

The phenomenal gains since 1967 in responsive leadership, community awareness and group participation are in jeopardy.

Why? Like the Reconstruction Era this period of growth signaled freedom, dignity and justice for blacks.

Unfortunately, those evil forces in America are attempting to negate the process now, as they did then.

In recent days the black community has been victimized by subtle attacks upon free and unfettered leaders.

The attacks have come in two forms: personal and political, and threaten to destroy the validity of the concepts of black awareness and self determination.

Forces are at work to destroy the effective leadership that has demonstrated responsiveness to the hurt in our community.

If these forces succeed, the community of black awareness has occurred by suggesting that it is a means of apologizing for the social pathologies that are the result of inadequate life-support systems.

These evil forces would have us believe that violence, anti-social behavior and welfare are directly tied to race.

Our black experience belies such notions.

Ironically those who purvey such lies never address themselves to the inequities in the system. They don't intend to.

On the contrary, their strategy is to attack leaders who challenge the dysfunctional aspects of the system.

We are offended by the open and blatant attacks on Parren Mitchell by political profiteers, kept politicians, some of them black, and segments of the news media which are insensitive to black concerns.

What are the accusations? He spends an inordinate amount of his time with little people.

He votes the liberal progressive line against the Nixon Administration.

What is not said is that he is the first black political leader who has had the courage of his convictions and who continues to identify with the poor and the oppressed.

Although charged by some with being a black racist, he reacts to a much broader community than has any congressional leadership.

The black community will not be bludgeoned under any circumstance into accepting the blame for social problems created by a system in which it is systematically denied the right of meaningful participation.

The black community will not tolerate the selection of its leaders by forces external and inimical to it.

The black community, although recognizing the right of any person to seek public office, will not countenance those who seek to subvert its political future.

The black community throughout the nation experiences a sense of pride in the progressive leadership that Parren Mitchell has exercised in the Congress of the United States.

The crisis is upon us. The issue is clear, and black people will meet it.

(ED'S Note: This letter was signed by the Rev. Vernon Dobson, Dr. Homer E. Favor, the Rev. Wendell H. Phillips, Dr. Gus Adair, the Rev. Harold Dobson, Dr. Patrick Scott, Lolite Gardia, and Judge Joseph C. Howard).

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 post-card to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw st., P.O. Box 1857, stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer to the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the Action can be found.

QUESTION: There is a saying from some author which has a message for all persons who violate the privileges of what we call freedom. It says something like, "No one person has a right to all his rights." What is a quotation to which I can refer in a speech I am to make on citizenship in my class? — A High School Student.

ANSWER: Our AFRO library shows this good one by George Pinckard: "True liberty consists in the privilege of enjoying our own rights, not the destruction of the rights of others."

QUESTION: Can you please help with the space heater situation in Baltimore? I live in the inner city and last week told my landlord the fumes and open flames from these heaters in my house were dangerous to my family. He told me the city is not enforcing the space heater now since the case is in court.

He then said he won't replace our heater now. Please help us before a life is lost.

ANSWER: The heater must be in good condition. I would suggest you contact the Baltimore City Health Department. The landlord should be forced to regulate the heat properly.

At Wrong End

Dear AFRO:

Some 353 killers in 1971! Substitute rats for killers and maybe we'll see the disease in a different light.

Would we be content to sit by a hill of garbage and kill the rats as they appeared, or would we try to learn where they came from and eradicate them at the source?

353 is an appalling record but it will surely go higher unless we apply our know-how to causes, not only effects.

This is a matter for doctors, psychologists, behavioral scientists, economists, etc. under conditions not afforded them under our deplorable system. So their efforts amount to a spit in the ocean.

Policemen, lawyers, judges, prisons, etc are therefore "charged" with its handling but in all fairness to them why don't we admit we are asking them to correct a situation by attacking it at the wrong end, after it has happened, not before.—B. J. SMALL

What AFRO Stands For

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

Equal business and professional opportunities in fact as well as theory.

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

Extensive and meaningful 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.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

GREENBURY Talks About Griefstricken

(ED'S NOTE: Greenbury, an honest bartender with good common sense, is the central character in this new AFRO column. This is the fourth in a series).

I just don't understand it, . . . just don't understand it at all.

Don't understand what, Greenie?

Just don't understand how some people get upset when somebody dies yet they treat 'em like the devil when they were alive.

Who you talkin' about now?

Ole Jess over there in the corner. He's been sittin' there sobbing all of two days, ever since he buried his old lady.

Well, ain't that natural, Greenie?

Naw, man. What he cryin' about when he knows he did all those mean things to her when she was warm and alive?

Were they married long?

Sure, over 20 years and ten head of children, but he was just naturally mean to her.

Now he crying 'about her?

Yep, I just don't understand people.

Maybe he's 'shamed, Greenie, maybe he's 'shamed, that's why he's tearful and broke up.

Guess so, friend, but I just don't understand it. Just like the other day in here, I couldn't close up the place a whole family in here crying in their beer.

What their trouble?

Their mother and grandmother, they said she was the best one in the world.

I miss my mother, too, Greenie.

Yeh, pal, but these peoples hadn't seen poor mama and grandma in months of Sundays.

How come?

Her in one of those sic, hospitals All hospitals are for sick

Yeh, but she was in one of those for head sickness, and they never much went to see her

Yet, they crying about her, Greenie?

Sure they was . . . I just don't understand.

And they never go to see her?

No, no one ceptin' the youngest girl, and she wasn't crying a bit, just sittin' there lookin' at them sorta strange-like.

Greenie, you know what, I think I'll take the day off tomorrow.

What for, pal?

Going out in the county to that home and see my mother.

Didn't know your mother was still around.

Yep. Greenie, she's livin' out there and ain't nobody but me and my brother out in California . . . don't know when we seen her.

Glad to know you're thinkin' of her.

Yeh, might as well let her know I cares, so if anything happens I won't be comin' in here cryin' like them peoples.

Yeh, pal, I don't just understand people. . .crying and cryin' on after people gone when they didn't care while they were livin'.

Night, Greenie.

Night, friend . . . think I'll get to the hospital myself and see my brother . . . he been sick long time, too.

'Just don't understand 'em sitting here crying in their booze when they was so mean to her . . .'

NOW and THEN

It Had To Be: Black Voices Against Guns

DR. FLEMING

By G. JAMES FLEMING

It had to happen. It was about time.

It was about time that some black leadership voices were lifted against the continued and increased use of deadly weapons, with the resultant killings of young and old people, black and white—but mostly black.

As said in this spot (issue of December 25, 1971), we could not understand why some black legislators were protesting against Governor Mandel's plan for regulating hand guns. It was impossible to understand why regulating the sale and ownership of hand guns should be considered a conspiracy against blacks.

Twelve blacks had to die in a single weekend to shake the black community into its senses—into realizing that most of the victims of violent weapons are black.

The first leadership voice to speak loudly was that of Frank M. Conaway, member of the House of Delegates. The second was Irvin J. Conway, president of the Civic Interest Group who, among other things, said, "It is better to have friskings than to have killings."

Both men have made it clear that the black community is not really a supporter of crime; that, instead, it is the victim of crime—crime by ghetto dwellers against ghetto dwellers, and big crime against ghetto dwellers by those from outside the ghetto.

This writer has a sister-in-law—a grand gal—owner of a drugstore in Philadelphia for some 25 years. Last week she had to close, after her 11th holdup by "soul brothers," the last time by three, each aiming a gun at her!

This situation is similar to that of the Harley's sandwich shops in Baltimore, which are closing one by one because of burglaries, with violent weapons. When and as they close, 100 black workers (soul brothers and sisters, some managers) will be unemployed.

Regulation of guns by the state is only one step, but an important step. Other steps must be:

(1) Federal action to stop the flow of narcotics into the United States, at its source. Any country that can send men and vehicles to the moon, should be able to keep narcotics out of its borders.

(2) The police (all important law enforcement officers) must become "above board" and not themselves indulge in illegal practices. Too many people, young and old, know of some policemen who take money for permitting crime: selling narcotics, operating rackets of one kind or another, etc.

(3) Jail and prison guards must be selected, trained and paid in such manner as to secure the highest type of personnel possible—personnel that will not stoop to selling narcotics to inmates or to selling other favors, illegally, to those within prison walls.

As always, everything this week is not in the area of crime and violence. There are men and circumstances which remind us that there is a bright side to life.

Such a bright side is represented by Sidney Hollander Sr., really one of the gods" noblemen, a premier human being, one of Baltimore's finest sons.

He was 90 last week—90 years of a full life, a pioneering life, a generous life, a life that has known no narrowness or bitterness based on race, religion or national origin.

He has been a helping person all his adult days, and he has inspired his children and their families to live the same kind of life, to adopt and adapt the same high-level value system.

Before the term, "civil rights," was a commonplace, he and his wife were pressing for equal rights. He wrote, he picketed, he spoke, he gave money. Whatever the issue, Sidney Hollander was always there, in body and with his check, if needed.

He picketed at Ford's Theatre and the Lyric; he almost totally carried Fellowship House for years; he made contributions to equal rights and welfare organizations, almost without number.

Sidney Hollander also helped many individual people, black and white, Jewish and Gentile.

Not only has his public life been exemplary; his private life has also, in his associates and friends, and in his devotion to the Windsor Hills integrated community, where whites and blacks have lived together so creatively for years.

Baltimore would be a much different place to live (and for the worse) if there were no Sidney Hollander and if there were no Sidney Hollander-related citizens.

It is good that Mr. Hollander's children are bringing together his sayings and philosophy in printed form, under the title, "I Still Do."

It is good that Morgan State College, some years ago, honored him with an honorary doctorate, and that the AFRO-AMERICAN elected him to its honor roll in 1948.

There are too few Sidney Hollanders in Baltimore, in Maryland, in the USA.

P.S. Several callers have inquired: "Why did the President send Mrs. Nixon to represent the USA, at the inauguration of President William Tolbert of Liberia?

Reply: He wanted to give the occasion top-drawer treatment and he could not risk sending his Vice-President.

STATE OF THINGS

Cure For Killer Is Ailing

By VAL HYMES

As the holidays came to an end, so did the lives of many Marylanders who might have been spared.

Ironically, while millions are being spent seeking cures for cancer and heart disease, a proven cure for the greatest killer of children and young adults — accidents — struggles along on a meager budget and public apathy.

Accident victims, who would simply die in Maryland ambulances and hospitals, are being saved at the rate of one a day by the teamwork of the world's only sophisticated Shock Trauma Center and the flying rescue choppers of the Maryland State Police.

Yet, because of the lack of public and legislative support, the Center at University Hospital may soon be forced to turn away the victims of highway, industrial and home accidents, which kill at a greater rate than all the nation's wars.

Unfortunately, most local hospital emergency rooms are not equipped to handle the critically injured and more than a third of the State's rescue squad crews have not completed advanced Red Cross courses.

As traffic congestion and highway speeds increase, the odds against surviving an accident mount. And even those who live, but with permanent disabilities, cost the taxpayers millions more than the treatment that could have sent them back to work.

Before the holidays began, 760 men, women and children had died on Maryland roads. In the first six months alone, 47 died in 17,248 accidents in Baltimore City, plus another 14 deaths in July.

Dr. R. Adams Cowley, who patterned Maryland's Shock Trauma Center after heart crisis units, says that 70 to 80 per cent of those whose lives are saved would have died n hospitals back home.

Yet the total operating budget for this program is only $740,000 this year. And while this 12-bed unit is becoming overcrowded, two operating rooms and another recovery unit have been sitting idle for two years because there is no money to staff them.

Dr. Cowley's request for $600,000 more next year comes after more than a decade of frustrating struggles to piece together funds just to keep going.

At the other end of the operation, it is painfully clear that the chance of survival depends on where you live.

The specially equipped police helicopters with their trained, paramedic-type crews can make the mercy missions to the Center in 15 minutes from the Washington or Baltimore metropolitan areas.

And that is where they concentrate their efforts because there are only three (one is a spare) and most accidents occur in those areas.

But since the Center also takes injured hunters, attempted suicides, burned children and premature babies, for example, 70 per cent of its patients are from rural areas, where many of the most serious auto crashes also occur.

Effective coverage of the state, according to Dr. Cowley and State Police Superintendent Thomas S. Smith, would require at least eight choppers assigned to separate regions to rush victims to the best hospital in the area or the Center.

But these birds cost $140,000 each and the only way another could be purchased this year, it appears, is through the Federal Safe Streets Act because of the State's tight fiscal picture.

The "air-evac" helicopters have already flown 1,033 missions this year and in November alone, they responded to 101 emergencies. They rushed 36 gravely ill or injured people to Baltimore and saw 28 of them saved.

At the same time, the flying police cars chase hit and run autos, spot marijuana fields, find lost children, and haul serum, blood and when not busy, the Governor, comptroller and attorney general.

Gov. Mandel has been personally interested in the Shock Trauma Center and police rescue operation since they saved the life of his close friend, James P. Mause, clerk of the House of Delegates.

But on the eve of this "busy season" for the State's top life-savers, their dedication seemed almost threatened by discouragement over their low place on the budget priority ladder with the legislative and executive branches.

"Our doctors and nurses are exhausted emotionally and physically because they are always dealing with people who are dying," Dr. Cowley signed.

"But how can we do less? And why don't people care?"

Postscript: Future Plans for the Center include not only research and teaching, but training in this newer field for medical and graduate students as well as community physicians and ambulance, state and local police personnel on a State-wide basis . The State Police are piloting several other accident prevention programs like special enforcement patrols in Prince Georges, drunk prevention in Wicomico and Worcester, alcoholic identification in the Baltimore area and a computerized accident reporting system in Anne Arundel.

Who's in New Dept.: Charles Brown, who will head for the State's Drug Abuse Administration the new Civil Commitment Program for voluntary treatment, aid and counseling to drug abusers in cooperation with Maryland courts .

Legislative Calendar: January 12 — Session begins Feb. 20, Green Bag day, March 6, last day for introducing bills. April 2, budget bill deadline. April 10, adjournment.

New Year's Special

By SCOTT PONGMONE

A good policy is never explain a holiday, at least before it occurs, or ask the questions:

Why celebrate New Year's, the midnight countdown, party hats, noise makers, all-night parties, and excessive alcohol?

What does all this merrymaking do for you? Why do you do it?

Often an explanation is disappointing. You tend not to celebrate holidays with any consideration on why you do so, and, in fact, an explanation seems to take an edge off the enjoyment of a holiday.

Nonetheless. .New Year's is a good holiday to examine. It has much in common with other holidays and it is something special as well.

Holidays are a break in your day-to-day activity. They are times to remember.

They are special times. They mark stops in your daily life. They begin periods of daily life. They end periods of daily life.

Stopping to celebrate a holiday is of the same importance as writers breaking up their stories into paragraphs. When you read to the end of a paragraph, you take a holiday. You relax. You digest what you just read, and you read on.

But now think of the importance of those holidays at the end of paragraphs. Would you trudge through a story without paragraphs? Would you even begin it?

Holidays help you begin and end work periods, just as a night's rest is necessary to begin and end each and every day, just as a weekend's Sabbath helps you begin and end each week.

New Year's is especially important because it ends and begins a major natural cycle, a single revolution of the earth around the sun, the passing of the seasons.

Of the natural cycles (the day, the month (new moon), and the year), the year or the end and beginning of the year is the most often celebrated.

Around the world, the New Year's, by whatever name, calls for a two-part ceremony, in short, the end of the world and the recreation of the world.

This follows nature's model of nighttime activities. First, there is celebration, a good dinner, a movie, dancing, a good book. Then comes sleep, a time for rejuvenation, the creation of energy for the next day.

The celebration of New Year's begins with the pandemonium of midnight at Times Square, parties and general merrymaking.

This outbreak of unnatural behavior would ruin society if it lasted much longer than it does. It signifies the destruction of the world, the overturning of the natural order.

Then it is time to reorganize. In the U.S. this is mostly done by the making of New Year's resolutions, promises to begin anew.

Symbolically, each and everyone of us creates a new world or, at least, forces the Lord to create the world again.

This is well illustrated by the Jewish tradition of reading a part of the Bible or Pentateuch each day so that it is completely read by the end of the year.

At the beginning of the New Year, The Bible is begun again, with Genesis, with the creation of the world.

While other holidays are valuable because they allow you to stop and rest and to ready yourself for more work, New Year's replays the drama of creation. It opens an avenue for rebirth.

While other holidays make time more bearable, New Year's tries to defy time and make it stop and begin again.

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

MRS. MOSS

In areas like Baltimore where balmy weather prevails at Christmastime, there is more sunshine and cheer among one's neighbors . . . at least it seemed so this past holiday season.

For this mother, Christmas joy was welcoming home, after his first three months away at college, son, Benjamin, now 18.

It was revealing to note he has lost his childhood fatness and pimples and developed a heavy voice and manly manner.

And, time marches on when he talks about classes at Tenn. State and reveals a favorite teacher is none other than daddy's former coach . . . only he (the coach) doesn't know yet he is his father's son.

Further proof it is indeed a small world!

Christmastime also gave our household a chance to learn that the grandchildren have grown up to be young ladies. Sonya, now 8, and Sondra, now 10, came down from N.Y. with their parents, Michael and Virginia Moss.

And, if you believe time passes—imagine this grandma's reaction as she looked out the window to find 16-year-old daughter, Rachael, buckling the grandchildren in seat belts and taking them for a ride. Yep, time marches on!

Christmastime always brings a unique greeting from our favorite poet and world traveler, Mary Carter Smith.

Her red and white card this year had a Yule story, a favorite recipe and this verse entitled, Asking:

"Ask, and it shall be given"
So today I am asking
To be able to forgive
To be able to forget
What should be forgotten
To remember
What I am unable to forget
Without rancor
"Forgive them
For they know not what they do"
Today I am asking You
Who are so free
To forgive me
Help me to forgive
My brother

Christmastime doesn't always mean staying-at-home time, at least for Mrs. Clarice M. Brooks and Mrs. Delores Byrd of Windsor Hills.

They holidayed at Nassau's Grand Central Hotel just off of the very popular Bay St., had a chance to join in the carnival celebration.

More people moving about: The D. John Peterses (Ida) holidayed in Portland, Oregon, with her daughter and son-in-law, the Stan McKenzies (Vashti.)

He's the basketball star and businessman and she's the businesswoman and model whose figure frequently graces the fashion pages of Portland newspapers. Both are products of Morgan State.

Myra White and Carl (Cutty) Hunt flew down to Kingston, Jamaica as guests of Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Warner, and their son, Tarik.

Dr. Warner is currently studying and practicing at the University of California, West Indies. Mrs. Warner, the former Charlene Wallance of Richmond, is a marketing researcher with the Colgate Co. of Kingston.

Myra tells of the beauty of the island and the fabulous homes located on the mountains. Also quite impressive and a must to visit are the Kingston Royal Botannical Gardens.

Incidentally, Myra and Cutty cut short the whole day to fly in to participate in the wedding of her sister, Marlene, last Sunday.

The Aaron Ellises (Mary), holidayed in Florida and points south.

Jamaica was the playground for the E. Thomas Williams family (Audlyn and children), and Ted Patterson (Sylvia and children).

Dr. and Mrs. Lonnie Greene (Seretha) were in New Orleans for a conference, returned in time to meet daughter, Sheryl, who flew home from Paris ere the New Year came in.

Dr. George McDonald, who holidayed in the Virgin Islands, was back on the home hearth as of Monday.

He was non-commital when we asked him to confirm reports that he's altar-bound.

So was his intended, Selby Lewis, the mortician. She holidayed in California.

Their friends are hoping the W. Emerson Browns (Miriam), will kiss and make-up and continue their storybook romance which has spanned 25 years.

People being kind to others: Members of the Courtesy Club of St. John AME Church, are preparing a treat for the community.

They are presenting a concert featuring their new minister, the Rev. Benjamin S. Foust. He has a beautiful baritone voice.

Members who have worshipped at the church report it is a real joy to hear him preach and to raise his voice in song when the spirit moves him.

Concert is 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16 at the church, Carrollton near Lanvale.

Cuff note: The Rev. Mr. Foust hails from Raleigh, N.C., where he pastored historic St. Paul AME Church, and where he was active in the civil rights movement with particular emphasis on decent housing for black people.

Many know him as sensitivity director for the National Council of Negro Women.

Baltimoreans can give a special welcome to a talented newcomer and enjoy a treat if they turn out for the Rev. Foust concert.

More people being kind to each other: Sorors of Delta Sigma Theta's Columbia Chapter toasted each other at the Hyla Brook Rd. home of Dr. and Mrs. Emerson Walden (Celonia). It was a lovely affair. Mrs. Walden is president of the chapter.

Some 80 sorors and their husbands were in attendance. Members of the executive committee who planned the evening were Sorors Shirley Colvin, Ruth Felton, Carolyn Harp, Suzzanne Price, Rosalyn Scarborough and Harriet Tootle.

Safest Days

The National Safety Council reports that Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays in January are considered the safest days of the year for motorists to travel.

Of the 54,800 traffic deaths recorded in 1970, only 11 per cent, an average of 116 deaths per day, occurred on those days. January recorded 3,750 deaths.

On the other hand, Saturdays in October are good days to keep off the roads.

Article Helped

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the good write-up you gave me in the December edition. I received many telephone calls from persons willing to donate their time to help me in the Nursing Homes. This was quite encouraging to me and we were able to help many patients.

Without this fine public spirit of the AFRO we could not have done this job, and make a few people happy. I am most grateful to these persons who gave their time to help in this effort. Mesdames Helen Brown, Mary Ward and Bernice Forbes, plus many others that pledged their help later.

Many thanks also to Mr. Vernon Bailey and the Kelson Funeral Home which gave $70 worth of equipment.

MABLE BROOKS