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

Commencement 1972

June 1972 graduates find the world as mixed up as it was four years ago when they entered high school or college.

We talk peace on one hand and foster a senseless war in Asia. We talk non-violence and patience at home but promote undemocratic and immoral practices which try men's souls.

Commencement speakers allude to opportunities unlimited, but 1972 graduates must be aware this is not necessarily so.

We are now in an economic decline. Funds for aiding the majority of our citizens who are impoverished are in jeopardy. Poverty and unemployment are on the increase.

There are unlimited opportunities for 1972 graduates who recognize this and who are willing to join hands with others to develop meaningful programs to solve our common ills.

There is great need for urban renewal experts who can provide innovative ideas to reclaim our cities.

There are opportunities for trained accountants, lawyers, engineers, architects and teachers who must continue their training — on the job service or further study — so that they can exhibit the excellence so badly needed in their fields.

A high school or college diploma is not a key to unlock any door automatically.

The 1972 graduate — high school or college — will find the work-a-day world waiting with eager arms provided he can cut the mustard.

If he is not prepared at this point in his life to meet and overcome disappointments, to learn by experience, often starting at the bottom, he might as well go back to school until he's ready because 1972 world can't use him.

Uncle Sam Needs Who?

The case of Pvt. Dwight Drewery, the Hampton, Va., soldier now on trial at Ft. Meade gives cause for concern.

Pvt. Drewery ran into "trouble" with the Army while serving in Germany. There, he and other black American GIs, demonstrated against unequal treatment.

Now back at Meade, he is fighting court martial and dishonorable discharge. He and his attorneys claim he is a victim of "military racism."

The crowning point came last week as he was preparing for trial.

He suffered a broken jaw while confined to the Ft. Meade stockade. He is now hospitalized and his trial delayed.

Thousands of dollars are spent to entice youngsters to join the armed forces.

The case of Pvt. Drewery suggests that when a youngster does his patriotic duty he is in danger of physical and mental harm from others in his own Army.

A man goes forth to battle expecting to suffer injury and accepting the fact he may die in combat, but, does a man have to look forward to atrocities while on base in the United States or in a country where there is no war in progress?

How can the Pentagon persist in inviting young men to join when apparent discrimination pops its ugly head up everywhere?

If Pvt. Drewery's case is typical of what happens to black servicemen who protest injustice, the armed forces might soon see a concerted resistance to their appeals to come and join Uncle Sam.

Honor Where Honor Due

Morgan State College did itself proud when it recognized the contributions of its commencement speaker, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the nationally known civil rights leader, and the Hon. Joseph C. Howard, a member of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore city.

We take note here particularly of the Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree to Judge Joe Howard because he is an adopted Baltimorean who has rendered superior public service to his fellowman.

Since that day in Nov. 1966, when voters agreed with him the sitting judge principle was grossly unfair and elected him to sit on the city's highest court, he has provided courageous leadership for the benefit of the total city.

The honorary degree citation said it beautifully:

Here are excerpts:

"Joseph Clemens Howard, Lawyer, Judge, Humanist, Fighter. The common man remembers you as 'the people's lawyer' in those years before your fellow-citizens elevated you to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

"Now they look upon you as a judge who has not forgotten the plight and the circumstances of those lowest down.

"Your fellow-lawyers read behind you, recognizing in you one who, not only follows precedent but who creates precedent, one who makes the law relevant to present times, and one who sees law as the servant and protector of the poor and needy, the humble and the insecure, just as the law has served and protected the high and mighty, the rich and powerful down the years.

"Nothing that concerns human beings is alien to you and you have demonstrated, time after time, your intense interest in all your fellowmen, regardless of their race, color, religion or national origin.

"You have not been afraid or ashamed, however, of putting your talents and concern to furthering the emancipation of your black brothers and sisters, those who all research show need you most.

"That you have served your people, nation, generation and city well, is shown by the number and kinds of organizations which have honored you by electing you to leadership positions — positions in which you have always worked zealously and contributed much"

Here Comes Summertime

June, the sixth month of the year, marks the half-way point of the calendar.

More important is the fact that June opens the most delightful and beauteous season. Summertime, so wonderfully described by the phrase from Porgy, "When the living is easy." And, as the Bible says, "When the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handy work."

With nature so soft and balmy and kind, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could start now to live in harmony with each other? This is the season for love and kindness and happiness. The calendar says so.

Open Letter To W. D. S.

Dear Mayor William Donald Schaefer: There's your man, Warden Hiram Schoonfield again. This time he's sounding off about how inmates at Baltimore City Jail enjoy life inside and want to spend long peroids there.

Your citizens' committee, judges, and federal correctional reports stamp this man as the reason for the problems at City Jail. How long are you going to wait before you make a change?

What The AFRO Stands For

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

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.

Provided You Can Cut The Mustard

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.

'Disturbing and Painful'

Dear AFRO: The recent action of the Senate in passing the Higher Education Act with the antibusing rider attached represents a flagrant and calculated rebuff to the hopes and aspirations of black youngsters and their parents who have never experienced, in fact, the meaning of desegregated public education.

The Senate's action, and the expected ratification by the House, after the necessary ceremonial "breast-beating," is clear and palpable evidence to 25 million black Americans that in spite of the Brown decision 18 years ago, their constitutional rights will be denied or delayed.

The highest legislative body in our nation is conveying a bitter and dispiriting message to Blacks across the nation: Your legal and constitutional rights will be denied in the name of political expediency.

Another way of simply stating the proposition is that the 18.5 billion dollar Higher Education Act is far more consequential than the human and constitutional rights of 25 million black citizens.

The current deliberations in the Congress are significant in terms of the history of black-white relations in this country. Three examples come to mind:

1. The so-called "Great Compromise" of 1876 which saw the "selection" of Rutherford B. Hayes over Samuel J. Tilden and the removal of Federal support and resources for 3.5 million impoverished blacks.

2. The development of an ethos or posture in the nation that affirmed "We will wipe our hands of the Negro Question."

3. Sanctioning of a duality and apartness (ie., segregation) in black-white relations that relegated Blacks to the lowest socio-economic stratum of our society.

It strikes the writer as a disturbing and painful anomaly that at a time that President Nixon is seeking peace in the Soviet Union, and the young and pacifists are seeking to end a tragic war in Vietnam, that there is coexisting simultaneously an abysmal absence of national leadership for human rights and justice for Blacks, Indians, Puerto Ricans, the poor, and Chicanos across the land.

SAMUEL L. BANKS

Not In Laurel

Dear AFRO: Concerning the shooting incident at Laurel Shopping Center involving George Wallace and his attempted assassination, which had nothing to do with blacks, yet white mobs chase blacks out of the shopping center.

Where are the laws on the book about crossing the State line to incite a riot? Then why hasn't Wallace been charged with crossing the State lines to incite a riot? Are these laws just for harassment of blacks?

PHILIP HUDSON

Bright Stars

Dear AFRO: I enjoyed immensely your editorial comment on The Primary Election and the rehearsal you did of your endorsement of George Russell when he was running for mayor.

I chuckled aloud when you referred to both Mr. Russell and Cong. Mitchell as our 'talented and bright stars.'

And I liked your conclusion:—

'There is an arena of service for Mr. Russell and Congressman Mitchell (Parren). They do not need be in the same ring' (congressional race.)

You are so right. As a voter in the Seventh Congressional District, I am glad all of us in what you call AFRO precincts (predominantly black by 75 per cent or more), followed the advice of the AFRO and nominated Cong. Mitchell.

You live up to the concluding paragraph in your credo, and I am very proud.

(Mrs.) E. L. BOLLS

Pessimistic

Dear AFRO: A downtown visit is an eye-opener, particularly to the infrequent visitor.

Admittedly, the new construction in the center of the city is impressive, if only because it is new and still clean-looking. And it was intended to be ready if and when Baltimore ever comes alive again.

That's the dream and wish. But I'm pessimistic. We have not attacked the problem at its roots and if we don't, our decaying city will turn dreams to nightmares and the new construction will be as monuments and tombstones to a city that died.

—B. J. SMALL

The Poet Tree

The Poet tree, the poet tree
grows in the bear vicinity
in fertile soil of deeds and dreams
and life that glows like sainted flames
come walk with me, I'll show you how
to plant a sapling in a bow.—

PAULD. McALLISTER

Out Of Business

Dear AFRO: It is with deep regret that I inform you of the abolishment of the Maryland Traffic Safety Commission.

Our agency is one of the oldest safety Commissions in the Nation, and after three decades, due to the action taken by the Maryland General Assembly, this Commission will be closing its offices on June 30, 1972.

On behalf of the members and staff of the Maryland Traffic Safety Commission, I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many kindnesses, courtesy, and cooperation you have given us over the years.

Without your help our work for better safety laws and good safety programs, would not have been possible.

PAUL E. BURKE,
Executive Director
Maryland Traffic Safety Commission

A little About a LOT

Continuing Responsibility

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

"What can I do to give him strength.
That he may come through life's adversities
As a whole human being unwarped
and human in a world
Of biased laws and inhuman practices that he might
Survive . . .?" "What Shall I Tell My Children Who Are Black," by Margaret T. G. Burroughs, 1963.)

MRS. MURPHY

Three young women in their late twenties, sat together in a comfortable living room, in the mellow twilight of May.

Not having seen one another for over five years, they began to reminisce about the "good ole days"—not nearly so good after painful revelation.

They had met as freshmen in 1961, at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus, and had roomed together at Wicomico Hall.

All were average or above average students—the norm among the majority of College Park students.

Their only difference was that they were black,

Before the March on Washington, before the bus boycott of Montgomery, Ala., before the historic March at Selma, they were part of the early movement toward integration in the public schools.

They were part of that generation counseled by parents, to get an education, no matter what the personal cost and sacrifice, to ignore the hostility of whites, to avoid confrontation, to remember the first aim was to get good grades, to excell if possible, and to fight only as a last resort.

Frighteningly outnumbered by hostile whites, sometimes only three or four blacks among a class of 300, these young women did "toe" the line, did persevere, did graduate from high school.

Carrying the same philosophy to college, intensified their suppressed rage, a reinforced belief in their inferiority, for they were never called upon in classes, though class participation counted for a percentage of their grade, they always missed the dean's list or honors English by two or three points.

There was no tutoring nor counseling for them in difficult courses. They had to sink or swim in an atmosphere of ostracism, indifference, prejudice and hostility.

One young woman carried this lonely burden until completion of her sophomore year, transferring to the Maryland Institute.

Another, until her junior year, transferring to Coppin.

The third, a rather remarkable young woman, would drop out for a semester, get up nerve to go another—see-sawing between grit, determination to graduate from the University of Maryland and utter defeat for a period of six years, when she proudly walked across the stage to get that hard earned diploma.

As far as life's work, preparation for a career, all succeeded. One is an artist, one, a social worker, and the other, an elementary school teacher.

As far as personal satisfaction, all are married, with children of their own.

But the psychological damage of those hostile years has scarred them subliminally. For in revealing their hardships, that recent night in May, they simultaneously confessed that they all had recurring nightmares to this day, of never making the grade, of never being able to achieve professional success.

Needless to say, they were emphatic and unanimous in their dislike and contempt for the University of Maryland.

"The greater the feeling of inferiority that has been experienced, the more powerful is the urge to conquest and the more violent the emotional agitation," according to Alfred Adler, noted psychiatrist.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that militancy among black youth has evolved?

Early in May, 1972, eleven years later, 150 black students protested at the University, College Park Campus, against the racism of the white students and administration.

They revealed that their Black Student Union office had been stoned, that black girls had been harassed by white male students, that Nazi insignia had been painted on the building, and that shots had been fired through the windows.

Although the administration promised an investigation, no report has been made to date.

It is evident that neither docile nor militant behavior will bring about concrete solutions to the problems of racism.

Unless we are blind, we must recognize that black youth today has developed a sense of despair, a sense of hopelessness, of defeat, a death wish, dangerous to our total survival.

Unless a greater number of interested black people of our generation, that generation which taught docility, accommodation to the system, "going along with the program," unifies to cut off the water of tax supported institutions like the University of Maryland, both graduate and undergraduate schools all over Maryland, these recurring nightmares will manifest themselves in more destructive ways.

And, unless our generation recognizes it is our continuing responsibility to change these institutions, by electing more black people to the legislature in 1974—men and women, not figureheads—with the power to change these conditions, psychological damage, the scars of racism, may be borne by our precious young men and women forever.

AFRO Credo

I measure a newspaper not in buildings, equipment and employees—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 kept 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 injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

'Catch Us, Teacher'

Dear AFRO: I was invited to an assembly sponsored by the Physical Education Department in Pimlico Junior High School. There was a variety of dances, stunts and activities which involved movement presented during this program. Each activity was well performed.

However, I am writing to express how I feel about the performance which involved pupils jumping over the side horse.

Several boys actually went flying through the air to get over the side horse, on the other side of the side horse stood a strong teacher who caught each boy.

To me this was symbolic. The pupils were saying "Here we come teacher, catch us."

These pupils expressed a deep sense of confidence and faith in their teacher, for had the teacher failed to catch a boy, he would have fallen.

I believe that pupils today are not only saying in physical education classes, "Here we come teacher, catch us."

In their own way, they are saying "catch us," and help us to learn how to study and how to excell in our many school activities.

They are saying to curriculum designers, "you can catch us" when the information designed for us meets our needs and in some way we can identify with it.

They are saying to teachers, "you can catch us" when the lessons are made interesting and exciting.

They are saying to parents, "you can catch us" when you set rules and regulations for us which will help us grow to be contributing American citizens.

To the young teacher who caught the boys, keep on catching your students. They need you.

—LOUISE LASSITER

NOW and THEN

Jail Captains Beat System In Promotions

By G. JAMES FLEMING

In the storm and fury of the primary campaign we postponed noting here the promotion of three black jail guards to the rank of captain. They are the first black captains at the Baltimore City Jail in its 113-year history, and despite the fact that 60 per cent of its 225 guards are black.

Many newspaper readers might have thought that these men were "kicked upstairs" just to appease the black community. The truth is, however, that they had duly passed the regular civil service examination.

And at that point history was made! For not only one black guard passed the examination; not only one was among the top five on the list.

DR. FLEMING

What happened was that the five highest-scoring guards were ALL black.

This is very important in Baltimore because every time there is a selection of new workers from a civil service list, the Civil Service Commission is required to refer the next five candidates to the appointing department. That department can legally choose any one of the five named.

This arrangement is not unusual in the civil service employment. It is accepted as good practice.

But this right to appoint any one of five has, in the past, made it easy for appointing officers to skip over blacks—and still be within the law.

Down the years, this legal practice has kept some civil service jobs totally lily-white, except on the lowest-paying levels, in the several states and in the federal government, as well as in the cities.

Baltimore and Maryland were no exception.

Those working for fair employment—as far back as 1941—have been praying for the day when so many blacks would take and pass civil service examinations, that they would cluster at the top of civil service lists, and make it impossible for appointing officers to by-pass all blacks referred to them.

This is what happened in the case of the first three black captains. They and two others were at the top of the list; they had passed highest. All blacks could not be shunted aside.

That bunching at the top, with its results, may never get a foot-note in the history books, but, to this column, it deserves to be highlighted.

One way to "beat the system" has always been through outstanding performance, being at the top, beating "The Man" at his own game.

The three new captains already working are: Herbert Parker, Lawrence Logan and Richard E. Herbert, all formerly lieutenants. Now there are three black captains and three white captains. Next examination is for deputy warden.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer had pressed for these promotions, following a federal finger-pointing at the jail, and the two black members of the board had worked constantly with their fellow jail board members for what is called a "new system" of promotion. At long last!

Yet it would be naive to believe that other ways won't be found to keep minority group members out of certain job opportunities. For instance, the probation period.

Neither can this column appear to say that all blacks must pass civil service examinations in the 90's in order to get consideration.

Another ruse against promoting blacks and women is to have them serve in "acting" positions, without the real rank or pay of the position.

Certain of the present black captains were lieutenants who were serving as "acting" captains or had been offered acting positions — instead of being promoted.

All over the country this has happened in both uniformed and non-uniform branches of the civil service.

Although the campaign for fair, non-discriminatory employment in the public service is not over, and the battle has not been won, one step forward can be made by more blacks sitting for civil service examinations, and taking such examinations seriously enough to aim at top-level performance.

The city and state human rights commissions, the NAACP and the Urban League can wage a better fight to combat job discrimination for men and women who have passed the examinations.

There are still too many offices and programs all over this land from which blacks and other minorities are shut out or have only very token representation.

Where they are employed, they are usually kept only in certain jobs.

Here is a call for action because the civil service is one way a people can start moving upward, as they fill positions with sure pay, pensions, health insurance, sick leave and other fringe benefits.

The public service also offers every kind of vocational opportunity—from the burial of bodies to trips to the moon.

Jobwise, there are more offerings in a street-cleaning bureau than cleaning the streets.

In a postal service, there are many higher-paying slots than that of delivering the mails.

Those already employed, should follow the example of the Baltimore City jail guards.

A Column Of CHOICE

By MARION BANFIELD

Let us go on with parental responsibilities in Title I ESEA schools. Parents are sure to meet some frustrations as they get involved with the real working problems of the Baltimore educational system.

Some of the educational staff may seem overbearing. It is just that they have been running things for a long time. Do not let them scare you!

To go to a meeting and have a lot of paper or some well-designed program thrown at you does not encourage some of us to feel that we are really participating. We are apt to feel as though we are doing a rubber-stamp job.

Rather than stay home and become discouraged, it is better to ask questions and express frustrations. The trouble is that some of us make a specialty of shouting frustrations so loud and frequently that we never really do any constructive planning.

If you do not understand, say so, read, talk, and stay in there for the sake of our children.

Parents know that the federal government meant for them to be involved in planning for the needs of students.

It is the responsibility of Title I Advisory Councils to make sure that they know the dates and places for planning for their school for the 1972-73 program.

You do not do that kind of planning at a once-a-month meeting. You have to read, visit other schools, compare, judge, and stick to your ideas when you have convinced.

We worry out loud about reading. If parents were more involved, they would also stress the need for basic arithmetic skills. They know their high school sons and daughters can not understand algebra because multiplication tables were not properly learned in elementary school.

There need to be group discussions, including students, about problems and needs of Title I schools. Math and reading and social studies are fine.

If family relations and classroom relations are improved, learning is easier and more meaningful. Schools need social workers, discussion leaders, and psychologists to help.

The city-wide council needs to concern itself with developing trained substitutes so that children are not cheated by teacher absences.

Another related concern should be the criteria for teacher employment set by the State Department of Education.

There are capable, concerned, college-educated, classroom-experienced persons who want to teach but are denied employment because they lack certain controversial education courses.

According to the Grant Application of 1971-72 Title I students are to be approached through "innovative programs, flexible schedules and an interesting content matter. Innovative programs would include techniques not previously tried with the children to be served. Flexible scheduling will permit individual children to advance at their individual rates. Interesting content materials will provide the opportunity for students to participate in choosing content areas to be incorporated in language arts curriculum."

Parents need to know who the persons are who will "help parents to plan, conduct and evaluate programs and activities."

This needs to be known and kept in writing so that if there is a problem at one level, parents will know how to

MARION BANFIELD

proceed to get the type of response they feel to be their right.

Unless parents serve on the Advisory Council and pay more attention to what is happening in classrooms, children may lose some of their Title I benefits.

For example, Title I schools are expected to have children reading one library book a week. Some parents never think beyond library books being torn or lost. If parents cooperate with the school program, then reading for "fun" can become a major source of pleasure and reading levels will improve greatly.

At Fairfield School No. 238, Mrs. Tina Johnson, delegate to the city-wide Advisory Council, Mrs. Beatrice Heard, chairman of the local council, Mrs. Mary Wilson, school-liaison worker and Mrs. Evelyn Carpenter, PTA president are anxious for more involvement by Fairfield parents.

At a recent meeting, the principal, Mrs. Mary B. Veloso told parents they are the ones with real power to get what is needed for improved education.

Fairfield is small enough to have an excellent curriculum planned with genuine parent-involvement.

As James Brown says, "Get Involved."

School No. 238 has government funds for a morning summer program for fourth through sixth grades.

This 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. program is a continuing opportunity for Fairfield children to broaden their knowledge. The Department of Recreation will operate an afternoon program for them.

The choice for summer program for elementary children is largely a parental choice. Proud and concerned mothers see that their children make good choices.

A Prayer

Dear AFRO: This prayer is written on day care mothers:—

Lord help me to be
Sweet, kind, patient, and lovingly
To a small child, who may be only three.
Let me kiss a hurt hand
If he happens to fall
To teach him obedience
To listen to my call.
Lord give his mother peace of mind
When she has to leave her small child behind
Knowing a day care mother will give her very best
Of play, food, home, and peaceful rest.
Let us be a substitute mother away from home
One he will remember even when he is grown.

(Mrs.) BESSIE PELZER

SMILE

"These new tranquilizer pills are really something. Took a couple the other night and slept like a baby. Cried all night."

The Major Speaks To The People

By MAJ. JAMES H. WATKINS

(ED'S NOTE: Maj. Watkins, one of Baltimore City's highest ranking police officers, is director of the Department's Community Relations Division, which won a place on the AFRO's 1971 Honor Roll. He is a veteran of 22 years on the force. In his first column, he tells AFRO readers how they can help policemen protect them.)

In my first article, the message was to impress upon you, the reader, that in order to survive in our present day society all of us must be our brother's keeper and report crime being perpetrated on your neighbors—stand and be counted as a person tired of being stepped on or mistreated.

Crime in Baltimore can be beaten if we unite and fight this all too common enemy, the burglar, mugger, thief and dope pusher; and any other person who does not respect the rights of your community.

I promise you that this column will not shout the old sayings: "be good", "don't rock the boat," "let the police do all of the work." However, I will say, help the policeman do his job; join hands with law enforcement for a better community.

When I agreed to do this column, it was because I felt the time was at hand to help the 98 per cent of our citizens who try everyday to be law abiding citizens who only want to live and work in a society free of "man's inhumanity to man."

Police Community Relations should be defined as—a joining of hands by Police and citizens in the common cause of living, working, and enjoying life, free of fear to venture from your home in pursuit of happiness.

I have been successful in my career of crime fighting and crime prevention only because the community wanted peace and the good citizens wanted to help police. I have said it before, and I implore my officers to do the same.

Reach out to the Baltimore community and they will embrace you in friendship and mutual respect.

We, (the police) ask AFRO readers' help to drive fear, in the form of robbers, thieves, muggers from our community. Let the Police through your letters, identify the thieves, muggers and dope pushers that roam your community.

Help us identify the gangs, that commit violent acts, put the disorderly houses (dope houses) out of your community—I am your servant along with the w-h-o-l-e Police Dept. TRY US!!

Recently, a person suspected of dealing in narcotic is alleged to have walked into a "crap game," plunked down a bundle and said "I shoot $5,000.00."

Of course, there were no takers. I mentioned this because the young man was also said to brag that he was given $25,000.00 worth of "stuff" to sell as he saw fit and the police will never catch him.

This same person also said that he even got past Major Watkins and the STOP squad (when the major was on the street).

Young man, take my advice and go legit but QUICKLY! It may be too late already.

When I worked in "Patrol" (on the street) I would warn people who were violating the law but they were greedy and would not stop. Most were arrested.

Mr. "A" you should stop now and dump that $25,000.00 worth of narcotics down the flush or better still call the Police and give it to them. Have a nice day.

P.S. Save that $5,000 you were going to bet for the Department of Internal Revenue.

QUESTION: Dear Maj. Watkins: I read where you said if you call 222-33-33 with a complaint, you don't have to give your name. What do I do when the person insists I give my name? I don't want to give my name.

ANSWER: Madam, you do not, repeat do NOT have to give your name. When you are reporting a crime and the operator insists you give your name, ask the operator for her number and tell her that Maj. Watkins said you do not have to give your name in reporting a crime.

(ED'S NOTE: Maj. Watkins will be glad to answer questions. If you have a police problem, if you do not understand a police action, or if you want to know more about Community Relations Department, write Major Watkins, c-o AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203, and he will answer your questions in his column. You do NOT have to sign your name.)

MAJ. WATKINS

Ask Me

By BETTYE MOSS

People being kind to others:

The children of Mrs. Mattie Johnson, of W. North Ave., surprised her with a "money tree" and birthday party Sunday at the home of her youngest daughter, Mrs. Mary Stanton, on Alter St. in Baltimore County.

Mrs. Johnson, who was 70 years young on May 22, is a lifelong member of Payne Memorial AME Church.

Her children attending the birthday dinner were: Mrs. Stanton, Chauncey Manson, Mrs. Dorothy Jackson, Vertis Johnson, ticket salesman for the Baltimore Bullets; Nathaniel Manson, of Lawrenceville, Va., and Mrs. Carolyn Hines, of Hampton, Va.

Her grandchildren, who live in Baltimore, are: Chauncey Manson Jr., Amier Manson, Larry Jackson, James Jackson, and Robert Stanton Jr.

Three doctors in the family: When Miss Harriet Lee received her degree at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy today, that made three doctors in the family.

Her parents are Dr. and Mrs C. Dudley Lee (Helen). He's a physician. So is their son, Dudley Jr., now serving as Lt. commander aboard an aircraft carrier in the Coral Sea. He finished U. of Md. Medical School in 1964.

If you think you've seen gracious homes, you really haven't lived until you visit at the Oxford, Md., residence of the Edward Webbs (Anne). He's the businessman, she's the teacher.

Over 300 guests gathered at their home near Easton on Sunday for a poolside party and barbecue. When they weren't poolsiding, they were tasting the most delicious dishes or touring the handsome home.

Talk of the guests was the room of the Webbs' small daughter, Maria, the quarters for the housekeeper, and of course the elegance of the decor and furnishings all over. Truly beautiful!!

There was live music by a combo which included David Scott of Cambridge on organ; Terry Day of Annapolis, drums; Sonny Johnson, Easton, on sax; and Sonny Streeter of Cambridge on bass. (Just loved their rendition of our favorite, 'Tenderly'.)

A number of Baltimoreans stayed over night at the nearby Holiday Inn at Easton, thus avoiding travelling at night during peak holiday travel hours.

It was a delightful trip and revealing to get a new and lovely view of the Eastern Shore. More on this affair next week.

Speaking of loveliness in living: The Loch Raven Blvd. manse of the Alonzo Hairstons (Helena), is also a joy to behold.

From the minute you enter the spacious living room, on through the family and kitchen area, out to the pool and back again through the tastefully furnished areas, you feel a pride in seeing how folks who work hard every day for their fellow man have the good sense to enjoy some comforts for themselves.

Cuff note: Mrs. Hairston is the school Library Media Specialist and evening instructor at Towson State College, and he's the lawyer.

Special get-well cards, please to Avon Wright, who is much improved at Provident Hospital. He's been in for several weeks.

He'll need special sunshine this week because his mother, Mrs. David Wright Sr. (Gertrude), died on Wednesday.

Sunshine also to Mrs. Earl (Marie) Bowen of 3223 Dorithan Road who is recuperating at home following surgery.

She's the former beautician and a member of the popular Charmettes' club.

Cuff note: When Citizens' Planning and Housing Association holds its 31st annual dinner meeting on June 13, at Eudowood Gardens, Charles G. Tildon Jr., will be nominated for president. Housing Commissioner Robert C. Embry Jr., is guest speaker.

Ask Me 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.

THE WHY of the sign is answered in AFRO Line this week.

QUESTION: There is a sign up on the lot in our block at the corner of Pressman and Payson Sts., talking about improvements. It is signed by Embry, the housing commissioner. What does this mean? There is only one lot, what kind of improvements are they talking about.— Mrs. W.

ANSWER: William Sallow, assistant director of Neighborhood Development in the Housing Department, told the AFRO Line the sign announces that the Rosemont Area is a federally assisted Code Enforcement Area.

He said this means the houses in this area are being inspected and city and federal money is available to help homeowners to bring their houses up to the city's minimum housing standards.

For more information, he said, contact the program manager, Miss Carolyn Watts at the 1818 Franklintown Rd. office, 947-5800.

QUESTION: I recently moved into a house in the 2200 block Francis St. I was advised trash is collected on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The trash man came this Wednesday and refused to take the trash. I had gathered it up from the back yard where I found it from the last tenants. I think trash people should take this trash. They say they won't and will call police. What can I do? — H.S.

ANSWER: A spokesman in Sanitation Chief Ed Moore's office says if former tenant left bulky items like old furniture, clothing, appliances and toys, it is the responsibility of your landlord to have these things removed.

However, if trash and garbage were left, you must place it in containers, no more than four, and leave it out on regular trash pick up days.

79 YEARS AGO—"The interests of the Afro-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." The AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893.