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

Schoonfield's Laurels

We read with amazement the recent citation to City Jail Warden Hiram Schoonfield.

A commendation certificate presented by the Maryland Crime Investigating Commission: salutes Warden Schoonfield, 'in recognition of your dedication and achievement in the management of one of the most difficult units within the entire criminal justice process . . . the community is deeply indebted to you for your administrative expertise during these particularly difficult times . . .'

We can't believe our eyes especially when we note Earl K. Koger Sr., is one of the commissioners who participated in the award ceremony honoring Warden Schoonfield and Jail Board President Paul J. Reed Jr.

Frankly, we're flabbergasted.

We have known Mr. Koger as an estimable businessman with great sensitivity to problems affecting his black brothers and sisters.

How can he and other members of the commission commend Warden Schoonfield at a time when the city jail keeper is under fire by citizens' groups, penal experts, public officials and the courts for his inept handling of the April 5 riots and for his general mismanagement of City Jail?.

Their commendation for Warden Schoonfield is alarming in view of the following:

1. Last year, Del. Troy Brailey (D-4th) investigated inmates' claims of serious irregularities and urged Schoonfield's dismissal.

2. In April 1972, representatives of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' and the Amrian Correctional Association made public their surveys indicting the warden and his staff for poor administration and lack of communication with staff.

3. Last month when Mr. Koger and associates were lauding Schoonfield, Mayor Schaefer's special citizens' group was issuing its report which said in plain language 'There has been an administrative breakdown at Baltimore City Jail . . . it is our preliminary impression that security and safety are at a critically low level

And again in May, U.S. District Judge Frank A. Kaufman, acting on complaints of 8 inmates who charged the warden endangered their constitutional rights, agreed the warden acted arbitrarily and caused much of the disruption at City Jail.

We don't know where Mr. Koger and his fellow crime commissioners have been, but apparently they haven't read the findings of four separate study groups in the last three months.

We hope Mayor Schaefer will soon wake up to the fact that the problem at City Jail is behind the warden's door.

We pray he will heed the voices of the independent surveyors before it is too late.

As for the crime commissioners, they need not bother to justify their commendation ceremony. On the face of it, it is a farce.

City Councilman Emerson R. Julian (4th-D), has consistently urged a change of leadership at City Jail.

Mayor Schaefer has his options, and should exercise them now.

Sam Lacy, Ladies' Man

Don't be misled by the title of this commentary. We are referring to our sports editor's very fine defense of women's rights to participate in sports.

Just in case you missed the excellent article about backward practices which exclude women, go back and pick up a copy of our Tuesday's edition.

You will enjoy the article on the sports page entitled, "Being Black Isn't The Only Drawback."

We Can't Use You Either

At this time of the year the AFRO office is full of young people, job hunting. Many of them have had no experience in writing, English, or business but they seek part and full-time jobs, ask for expert's pay, but are not equipped to do journeyman's work.

In past years the AFRO has been a training ground for many of the nation's top journalists, authors, printers, and secretaries.

As we begin our 81st year this August, this newspaper will continue its long tradition to train young people provided they are willing to start at the bottom, do additional study, take additional courses, and workshops to prepare themselves for the jobs which are manifold at the AFRO-AMERICAN Company.

If you aren't, don't come, we can't use you either.

New AFRO Columnist

We are mighty proud of AFRO's new columnist, Police Major James H. Watkins, who is Chief of Baltimore City Community Relations Department.

Already AFRO readers have written to say how glad they are to have an opportunity to talk directly to a police officer who understands their problems. They point particularly to the fact that Mayor Watkins' answers are helpful.

We hope more AFRO readers will take advantage of this opportunity to communicate directly with our new AFRO columnist.

We Told You So

Last year when AFRO readers were being urged to support the sitting judge principle, we expressed our misgivings, both on the grounds that scheme does not get judgeships out of politics and does not deal equitably with the black community.

Watch closely now what is happening. Everybody in Maryland knows that Senator William James is supposed to get a high judgeship and everyone knew his name would show up on the list that goes to the governor. That's what we call politics. Even before a vacancy is declared we can predict who will be on the list and selected from it.

Selection groups have generally recommended white lawyers to fill vacancies on city and state courts and Governor Mandel, who appoints them, has a record of favoring his friends, mostly members of his minority group.

Here we have it again. All of the persons recommended to fill two vacancies on the Maryland Court of Appeals are white.

There are no black judges on this high court. In fact, in the entire state of Maryland there are only 8 judges out of a total 176.

So far we have not been able to depend on Governor Mandel nor the bar associations nor the Governor's Judicial Selection Committee to give black lawyers a fair share of the judicial appointments.

Our salvation lies in challenging the sitting judge principle by encouraging more of our lawyers to seek election to judgeships, when vacancies occur.

By the way, University of Maryland Law School graduated nine black students, largest in the history of the school but small in number to the growing need for lawyers so sorely needed in our communities.

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;

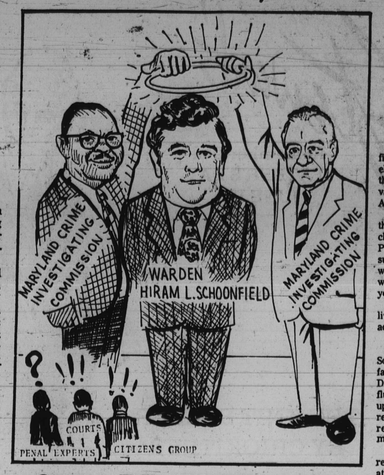
Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

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

How Could They?



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.

Mandel And Dems

Dear AFRO:—I understand that when you attend a select political gathering and decisions are made which affect "the people," that the last ones to be told about what went on should be "the people."

The rationale—as I understand it—is that it is alright to fight and argue among yourselves, but if you ever let "the people" know what exactly went on, they may lose confidence in you and fail to re-elect you to your nice, soft job. The attitude is sort of "if you don't squeal on me, I won't squeal on you."

I attended the convention of delegates to the Democratic National Convention which was held last Friday at Towson State College. I attended because I understood that it would be an open convention and that there was a good chance that the representation of blacks, women and youths would be increased.

I attended also because I thought that a strong, unified delegation from the Seventh Congressional District would lead this fight. I left that meeting, after seven hours, disgusted.

I guess I will be accused by the politicians of telling out of school. I don't care. I don't want anything from them but what they promised me when they wanted my vote — fair representation.

The Mandel Machine—with the aid of several unlikely bedfellows—rammed everything and everyone they wanted down the throats of all who were there. "The people" stood no chance.

It was a remarkable demonstration of machine-power politics. There was no participatory democracy. It was as if I were watching a play on stage. I could not believe it. But I should not have been surprised.

We all know that "King" Mandel controls this state. What few of us realize, however, is that he gets this power because certain of "our" elected officials give it to him.

In this particular instance I have reference to the lady (woman?) State Senator from the fourth District of Baltimore City and the senior black (colored?) city councilman from Baltimore's Second District.

On numerous occasions they caused disruption within the Seventh Congressional District delegation because they insisted upon doing what the Governor had told them to do even though it conflicted with the better interests of black people.

I found their conduct embarrassing, demeaning, offensive, cheap and just plain stupid. Verda Welcome and Robert Douglass, (oops, I slipped and called their names), should be impeached and forced to live in the County with Dale Anderson on the small amount of crumbs they have gotten for selling black people out. I for one—will not forget them at election time. JUST CALL ME — DISGUSTED T.L.D.

Recreation News

Dear AFRO: I wish to express appreciation of the Bureau of Recreation for the excellent coverage you have been giving our many and varied activities conducted at 105 recreation centers throughout Baltimore City.

Your announcements of coming recreation events and the public publishing of results mean much to the participants in our programs and insures greater success of our numerous activities.

Looking forward to working with you for more and better recreation for the citizens of Baltimore, I remain
A. L. COTTRILL, Superintendent,

Tragic Plight

Dear AFRO: In Friday's (6-2-72) Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN there appeared an article, "Home Service Workers Want Director Fired" concerning the tragic plight of the Special Home Service Section of The Baltimore City Health Department.

While this article raises once again the smoldering antagonism that besets that department, it does not deal with the real issues of service to people, systemic discrimination and institutionalized racism.

Not only has the sole black head of any section within the Baltimore City Health Department been systematically ousted, but also Miss Adele Wilzak, the source of much discontent, has been promoted from acting director to the directorship of this same section.

This action was taken despite the opposition of the majority of the staff of this section, and the recommendation by the Community Health Council of Maryland that she be dismissed.

Further, as the result of an investigation of a complaint about Miss. Wilzak's role as assistant director, the director of the Community Relations Commission talked to Dr. Farber (health commissioner) about her not being promoted.

It is feared by some of us that the wheels of action, as used by the State Human Relations Commission, to purge that agency of persons doing meaningful work on behalf of the Baltimore community, are already in action in this section.

This method has been used historically to take active persons and meaningful agencies and render them passive.—MRS. ETHEL M. JONES, Senior Supervisor H.A.

Appreciated

Dear AFRO: On behalf of the Victor Business Schools I thank you for a very fine article in the May 20th edition of the AFRO that explains only part of what happens relative to the education of our student at Victor.

The real story goes on five (5) days a week in the heart, minds, and souls of both students and instructors. Your article, however, was very much appreciated.

DELORES A. WILLIAMS,
School Manager.

Mixed-up Value

Dear AFRO:

Governor Wallace's shooting brings to mind the words "quantity and quality." That he should get the best attention goes without saying; but it is sad that the same care isn't available to John Q. Public.

Our priorities and values are mixed up in a confused society that's headed for doom.

Imagine, if you will, the money you'd have to pay for just the coverage the shooting is getting in the press and on radio and television. The amount staggers the imagination!—

B. J. SMALL

School No. 95

Dear AFRO: We are very grateful to you for the wonderful coverage at School No. 95 on April 25.

Many favorable comments were voiced as the parents were happy to see their children's pictures and read about the program. (Mrs.) VELMA B. EVANS, Program Administrator, Early Admissions Program.

Author Sought

Dear AFRO: Psalm 127:1 says, Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

I would like to know the author of these lines:—

"There is a line unseen
That crosses every path
The hidden boundary between
God's mercy and His wrath."—
(Mrs.) CARRIE S. ROBINSON

Clean Up City

Dear AFRO: My name is righteously Ragnar Abdullah Kahn.

I have not long ago struck the news media with my lone vamps on City Halls Board of Estimates meetings held on Wednesday, my purpose then was to expose to the people how their monies were being spent and to demand more jobs for the brothers in the streets.

We want the city to clean the filth from Ghetto streets, indict the hangout corners, and to inforce those said indictments, we want a "kill the rat campaign."

We want better recreational facilities for our children. In short, we need more money, more materials and last but not least, more help in our clean-up campaign.—RAGAR ABDULLAH KAHN

(ED's NOTE: AFRO's annual Clean Block Drive opens this month. Watch for announcement of office opening.)

A little About a LOT

Black Middle Americans

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

MRS. MURPHY

We must be aware as we strive for fine clothes, good food, powerful cars, elaborate homes and entertainment, that in taking on these middle-class values, we blacks become middle Americans.

We become as tied to the system as the middle Americans who are cherished by Vice Pres. Agnew and Pres. Nixon. They believe in the survival of the fittest, so similar to what we've heard from some blacks who have made it: "I've got mine, you've got yours to get."

We must take a hard look at our lives of pleasure and things and admit to the emptiness.

So what, after the Debutante Ball? So what after wearing the latest fashions? So what, after the lavish Dimer-Dance — food and drink flushed down the drain, money gone up in smoke, or rather run up on cash registers, whose benefits are far, far removed from the black community?

What changes in the system of repression do these showy pleasures attain? We are still the 22 million minority whose plight worsens.

Once we few black middle Americans get ours, what do we do for those we've left behind?

As part of the system, in striving for the good things of life, we black middle Americans find it prudent to give up the responsibility to find answers to this question, or to find solutions to our over-riding problems in the black community.

It wouldn't be safe. "Rocking the boat" could place us in the position of an Angela Davis. To be safe we must remain indifferent, selfish, uninvolved, misinformed and ignorant.

In order to protect our prized possessions, our status as the black middle Americans, we cast about for scape goats — "Irrelevant enemies." Defensively, we join the familiar chorus: "If it weren't for all those bad s——s, if they'd just behave, act right, and make it like me, life could be beautiful."

These "irrelevant enemies" Michael Parenti describes in his article, "Creeping Fasicsm," Transaction-Society, June 1972.

In comparing the conditions of Germany between 1933 and 1941, with our present situation in the USA, Parenti writes, "One of the main tactics of facism is to direct economic anger of the populace toward irrelevant foes.

"So, too, today in the U.S., we witness the middle Americans beset by real economic difficulties and social frustrations, but too well indoctrinated in anti-radical, anti-social images and too committed to conservative notions of patriotism to make a realistic indictment of our system.

"Having been taught that the government, the military and big corporations are the mainstays of Americanism, they turn their anger toward irrelevant enemies: the blacks, the hippies, the students, the "welfare' chislers," the poor, the radicals and the real and imagined violators of law and order, — those suspect of challenging middle America's own compulsive and long life commitment to patriotism, hard work and private acquisitiveness (possessive greed)."

Black middle America has taken on "conservative notions," insulating itself against the fact that life is more repressive in this so-called democracy Despite the striving for material wealth, social position, things ain't getting any better.

Breaking into our euphoria are the nagging questions: "How come we are earning more money and taking home less? "How come the Soviet Union was our enemy yesterday and we're making treaties with her today?" (One can't miss the about face of a former red-baiting president.)

"How come the dead in Vietnam are nearly a quarter of a million and Nixon argues we are escalating the war in the name of 'peace'?"

"How come Secretary Laird estimates it will cost us $5 billion to 'keep the peace' for the remainder of '72 in Vietnam?"

Illustrative of our repression at home are ten per cent of the formerly neglected black population, suffering sickle cell condition; prisons filled with our brothers and sisters, rotting inortuous conditions; methadone treatment for drug addicts, which substitutes a legalized addiction instead of basic drug reform — the "half-loaf" solution to law and order.

When we recognize that some of these same black middle Americans are representing us in city hall, in Annapolis, on boards and commissions, we had better start reordering our priorities for 1974 and 1976.

We had better make some hard decisions about what middle class things we have to give up, what actions we must take in future elections in order to gain some freedom from our oppression.

We had better redirect our money, effort and time to forge a black togetherness, to develop our collective strength, to work for change in political representation we now hold, and gain a few more.

It's time to stop blaming our brothers and sisters — the "irrelevant enemies"— and time to start challenging our black elected officials whose misplaced commitment to the system isolates them from the people.

It's time to take care of business, black middle America!

SMILE

One of the troubles with life is that the time you know your way around, you don't feel like going.

NOW and THEN

Nixon: 'Rabbit Foot' Power Insures Luck

By G. JAMES FLEMING

DR. FLEMING

Say what you will about Richard Nixon, you can not say that good luck has not followed him most of his days.

Two defeats—for President in 1960 and for governor of California in 1962—are the exceptions that prove the rule, and even these have an element of good fortune in them.

Suppose Nixon had been President in 1963, and was in Dallas, or suppose he had been hidden in the chance's mansion in Sacramento. He might never be enjoying the triumphs of Moscow and the great effort for world peace he made there.

Nixon's good luck started early. Although his parents were not well to do, he did get a college education from a reputable institution.

He went to war (WWII), and returned physically and mentally whole.

Without having been active in politics earlier, certain breaks came his way and he was immediately offered a congressional nomination on a silver platter.

He won a seat in the House of Representatives, then in the Senate.

Then, mark this, he rode to national fame on the anti-communist hysteria of the Senator Joseph McCarthy years.

He was the virulent, outspoken Senate anti-communist No. 2.

It seemed most natural that he would be chosen to be vice-president to General Eisenhower (Every President needs what is called a "hatchet man").

He won eight years as the No. 2 man of the nation; he talked a lot and travelled broadly. He gained international headlines when he bearded Nikita Khruschev in the Moscow demonstration kitchen.

Viewed from today, most of all, his vice-presidential travels allowed him to soak up a great deal of international knowledge and to sharpen his understanding of the men and minds of many nations.

Following his last year of the vice-presidency, Richard Nixon was out of office for eight years. In between his political adventures, he reportedly read voluminously; he made speech after speech wherever it would do him the most good; he pledged himself not to repeat his errors of 1960, if he should have another chance for the White House.

His best luck, however, was his moving to New York City and making it his home—New York, the capital of TV, radio and newspapers, and also close to Washington.

Although he had no reputation as a great lawyer, New York also gave him the opportunity to become a member of one of the leading law firms of the country, an organization for which he could use his many Senate and Vice-Presidential contacts (And pay was no "peanuts" and his bonus was more key contacts).

As a New Yorker, he won the Republican nomination for President in 1968, and subsequently, at long last, he became President of the United States.

His luck had held. Someone thought up his declaration that "I have a plan to end the war in Vietnam" (similar to President Eisenhower's "I shall go to Korea").

The Lyndon Johnson abdication and the distressful rioting at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago also played into Nixon's hands. A feeling of a "Time for change" was also in the air and, this too, was part of the Nixon "rabbit foot."

Nixon has had his eyes on what the history books will say about him. They will have lots to say. But, even before the books, the Nixon luck should mean that the summit confrontation is the clincher to Nixon's reelection for a second term as President.

It is hard to imagine anything so inane or disastrous that the Nixon-Kissinger team can do to cause Mr. Nixon to fluff reelection.

To the rank and file of voters, Nixon must appear to be daring, courageous, smart, and one who has risked nearly everything to bring peace to the world. He even depended on his luck to risk escalation in North Vietnam without having the Moscow meeting cancelled. It will be Nixon in '72.

Only relatively few people will recall that, if "summits" and "leagues of nations" brought "universal" peace, or "peace in our time," or peace for all time, humanity would not have experienced war down the years.

But, this not to take any credit away from the President. Some day, there is bound to be a breakthrough in correcting this most deadly of social ills—war. Every sincere attempt for peace is well worth the effort.

When it comes to the politics of peace-making and "summitry," however, Mr. Nixon insures his place in history as well as his reelection. And the Nixon luck still holds.

P.S.—In earlier columns this writer has deplored President Nixon's lack of insight and lack of daring in domestic problems, such as the economy and white-black relations.

A Column Of CHOICE

By MARION BANFIELD

MARION BANFIELD

In recent months we have been reading much about prisons locally and nationally. There is increasing pressure that Warden Schoonfield be relieved of his assignment because of his callous attitude toward prisoners.

I have just finished reading One Day In The Life of Ivan Denisotich by Nobel prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn. There is historical dehumanizing of living man in prisons.

As each prisoner wants to survive, he must plot his relationship to fellow prisoners and to the authority figures. According as one demeans or betrays does self-worth struggle to survive with the ability to exist.

In the eighteenth century slavery was accepted as acceptable human relationship in Europe, in America, in Asia, in Africa. We have changed our thinking about that master-slave arrangement.

When I was a child tuberculosis and mental illness were hushed up in families. Now we face these illnesses more openly. Within very recent years women smoke on the street and are still considered "decent."

In our College, it was accepted as inescapable means of keeping industrial employment high, of the "stronger" nation being the "victor" over the weaker nation. Now we must consider a new way of existing in the world.

It is now time for us to look at the whole concept of prisons. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" has not improved anyone's eyesight or ability to use natural teeth.

So often we who are close to situations and tend to be ignorant of our powers to bring about change. In the black community we need to think beyond "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

We need to recognize our power to think enough about problems to develop some solutions. We need to learn to use our own abilities and to use resources when necessary.

Why do we have prisons? That question can bring many answers. We need to be aware of a variety of answers. To what extent do prisons accomplish what your answers to the "why" set out to do?

Whom do you want in prisons today?

What prison reforms do we need? And before you answer the question you need to know what is going on in your own city and state. You need to read some books about prison reform.

What can you do about prison reform? What can your church or group do about prison reform? How soon will you become concerned about prisoners.? Because the black community furnishes the major population to our penal systems, it is our responsibility to stop praying for God to make changes, to stop avoiding the problem and to take time to study, to understand, and to take action to find some better way of dealing with our black population.

The emotions, the attitudes: which plunge some of our men into penal systems begin in the home and are nurtured in the mental cruelty of our classrooms.

For these reasons, which are only part of the problem, we need to consciously develop human relations programs in our community in a way which we have never done.

Our choice is to wait for change, as we have been doing, or recognize that the cruelties which distort intended reform of personal behavior have failed too drastically to be allowed to continue.

Our choice is to learn our court system and bring about change, or to expect change in violence.

Our choice is to use our brains to develop approaches in dealing with each other in such a way as to make respect for each other a routinely accepted way of living together, or silently or violently watch increasing physical and mental murder.

Our choice is to recognize that we must change man's relationship to man in Baltimore or end up in a dictatorship of oppression.

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.

Police 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.)

According to departmental statistics, Baltimore City Police last year received more than 1.2 million calls for police assistance. Most of these calls were non-emergency calls, such as barking dogs, water leaks, abandoned cars, street lights out, etc.

I thought if I could give you a list of telephone numbers to keep in a handy spot it might help you save time getting the assistance you need.

For all Police Emergencies, call 222-3333. For routine calls, 685-1600.

Extension numbers for routine calls over 685-1600, are: Central District, Ext. 662; Eastern District, 541; Northeastern, 553; Northern, 295;

Northwestern, 284; Southeastern, 367; Southern, 407; Southwestern, 267; Western, 374; Narcotics Unit, 352;

Community Relations Section, 216;

Internal Investigation Division, 459; Public Information, 470;

C.I.D. Burglary Unit (Central-Southern-Southwestern), 324; C.I.D. Burglary Unit (Southeastern-Eastern-Northeastern), 329; Recruitment, 456.

I am glad to answer some questions which have come from readers of my new column. Here are some I received this week:

QUESTION: I would like to know if and when a person should call for help if someone is already at your door trying to get in. I called for help May 16, between 12:30 and 1 a.m. There was a man on my steps, he had opened my storm door, when I woke up and looked out.

I called 222-3333, I got a clerk but not her name, I was so afraid the man would get in. This is what I got for 30 minutes and 4 phone calls:

1. Your name and address: I gave it.

2. Close your door and keep it locked, if he doesn't go away, call again. I called again, he was still there. She told me not to go to the door, the man would go away; if not call back, because every time the police came in the block they found nothing.

The people next door told me they saw the man and they were told the same thing when they called the police.

3. We called the police station, they sent out a wagon and about 4 cars. The man had fallen off the steps by then at the door, they didn't ring the bell or say anything but took him away.

I am wondering was this the way it should have happened. Also it upsets me because we do have a lot of these kinds of things going on in our block.—X. Z.

ANSWER: On information from Lt. Woods in the Communication Division: When you call for assistance, give the full details. If you are told to call back, ask to speak to the supervisor and be sure to have the operator's number.

QUESTION: I was in the vicinity of the Preakness Bar on Monday evening and saw all those policemen. It was a disgrace the way they went in that bar and took innocent people out, dragged them out.

It is wrong for someone to bomb anybody's car—policemen included—but the police knew it was a juvenile they were looking for.

Why would they go in the bar and bother innocent adults, take them into custody and hold them for four hours without making any charges and then release them?

And the police cussed so, they seemed to create more disorder than the people. I think if we are going to have peace and tranquility in our neighborhoods this summer the Commissioner needs to put some sensible and understanding police officers in that Northwestern District. Some of those police out there are terrible.—MRS. C. R.

ANSWER: In reference to the Preakness Bar, this case is still under litigation and investigation. When investigation is completed I will confer with public information. If you have any information as to what happened, please call or write the Police Department with all pertinent information.

QUESTION: Last night (Monday), I saw some suspicious boys in front of a neighbor's house. I called the 222-3333 number you suggested and the lady on the other end of the wire wanted to know if I wanted to give my name. I said no, and so far as I know, no police came out to investigate. What is this name thing anyway? Do you or don't you have to give names?—C. Z.

ANSWER: When reporting a crime you are NOT compelled to give your name. The operators are told to ask your name for administrative purposes only. It is important, however, to give full details as you see them.

MAJ. WATKINS

(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.)

IF YOU Ask ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Good News: The Rev. Robert A. Bennett, former curate of St. James Episcopal church, will begin a sabbatical in September from Harvard's School of Theological (E.T.S.) to Rome for work at the Pontifical Biblical Institute.

Because of his special interest in Africa and the Bible, he will also visit Liberia at the invitation of Bishop Browne — to meet the clergy and visit the schools of Liberia.

Isn't that fine!!

CUFF NOTES:- Father Bennett's family will accompany him to Rome and Liberia. The children, Mark and Ann, will be enrolled in the International School.

By the way, Mark was elected "Principal for The Day" at the Buckingham School in Cambridge, Mass. This is quite an honor as Mark is the first black "Principal for a Day."

More cuff notes:- Father Bennett, wife, Patricia Greig Bennett and children are visiting his family this week.

Happy as can be are his mother Mrs. Irene Bennett; and sisters Audrey B. Pinkney and Vera B. Flint and nephew, Steven Flint.

Poet? City Comptroller Hyman Pressman may be skilled as a politician, but you can learn here you turned a number of young people off at Community College of Baltimore commencement (when you used the words, kick in the tail.')

And, you should not have been misled by the City College graduates' cheers which greeted the same poem you dressed up with 'when getting down to the nitty-gritty, no school is better than City . . .'

And, earlier Tuesday evening at the Bar Association annual meeting your Russell-Mitchell verse drew no laughs from the Hilton Hotel guests.

Come on, Hymie, stick to straight speech-making and cut out the rough words. They don't set well in mixed audiences.

And, you should know better . . . you're the one who's fussing about 'dirty' books!

Cuff note: At the Bar Association dinner mentioned above, we shared a table with two former Baltimore mayors, Phillip H. Goodman and Theodore R. McKeldin.

Mr. McKeldin was reminiscing that he named Judge Hall Hammond to the Md. Court of appeals 20 years ago. The dinner honored the judge who retired last month.

Want to help somebody? Douglass High School's marvelous band needs funds ($30,000) to purchase uniforms. The 122-piece outfit had to turn down an invitation to play at the Kentucky Derby.

Cuff note: On June 13 at 10 a.m., the band will play on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

They're good and deserving. YOU can help.

People standing straight and tall; The David N. Wright Sr. family has had it . . . three deaths in the family since May 30.

Mrs. David N. Wright Jr. (Bea) and her hubby, were in N.Y. on Memorial Day weekend with her father, Frisby Lindsay, to bury his brother, William Lindsay.

On Saturday, Mr. Wright buried his mother, Mrs. David N. Wright Sr. (Gertrude), 91, pioneer member of old Baltimore family. Remember, the family grew up in Union Baptist Church

On the same day they buried their mother, a brother, Charles Avon Wright, 61, ill in Provident Hospital for several weeks, died. We attended his funeral, again at Union . . . Thursday morning.

MRS. MOSS

Avon's widow, Elaine, was a tower of strength and so were the brother, David, and their sister, Roberta Clark, the retired teacher, who is doing well despite her paralysis.

People who can weather trying situations like this come from strong stock. They inspire their friends to lock their troubles in a box because they stand so straight and tall when sadness comes their way.

Among out-of-towners here for the Charles Avon Wright funeral Thursday; their longtime friends, Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Purnell (Blanche) who came from Salisbury, Md., and Lincoln University Dean and Mrs. Leroy Johnson.

Also, Mrs. Elaine Wright's sisters and brothers-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Derry, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Derry and Levi Derry of Langhorne, Pa.

Send get well cards to Mrs. Mary C. Spellman, now recuperating in the Pleasant Manor Nursing Home, 4615 Park Heights Ave.

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.

It's Not A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE

MRS. WHITE

This column will be devoting much attention to the various parts of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for explanation as well as clarification. Many people are concerned about what the ERA would do to relationships between men and women.

ERA applies only to government action and legal rights, not to social customs.

The question of who pays the dinner check, opens the door, lights a cigarette, or pulls out a chair has nothing to do with equal legal rights.

Social customs and personal relationships between men and women would be decided by the individuals involved.

Sen. Marlow Cook (R-Ky.) explains:—"It is important to note that the only kind of sex discrimination which ERA would forbid is that which exists with the law.

"Interpersonal relationships and customs of chivalry will, of course, remain as they always have been, a matter of individual choice.

"The passage of this Amendment will neither make a man a gentleman nor will it require him to stop being one."

Another area of concern is whether the right to privacy is in conflict with ERA.

"Equality under the law" does not mean that the sexes must be regarded as identical, and it does not prohibit states from requiring that there be a reasonable separation of the sexes under some circumstances.

States would continue to have the power to require segregation of the sexes for regulatory purposes with respect to such facilities as sleeping quarters at coeducational colleges, prison dormitories, and military barracks.

In addition, the right to privacy under the Constitution would also permit a separation of the sexes with respect to such places as public toilets and sleeping quarters of public institutions.

Alimony laws would continue in effect under ERA. Continued support of one spouse by the other after divorce or separation, if based on actual economic dependency or relative ability to provide family support, would be permitted.

The Amendment would bar a State from imposing a greater liability on one spouse than on the other merely because of sex.

It is clear that the Amendment would not require both the husband and wife to contribute identical amounts of money to a marriage.

The support obligation of each spouse would be defined in functional terms based.

For example, on each spouse's earning power, current resources and nonmonetary contributions to the family welfare. . .where one spouse is the primary wage earner and the other runs the home, the one who works would have a duty to support the spouse who stays at home in compensation for the performance of her or his duties. (Association of the Bar of the City of New York)

The ERA also would not take all women out of the home and would definitely not require the husband and wife to become wage earners.

Rather than downgrading the roles of mother and housewife, the ERA would give new dignity to these important roles.

As Rep. Florence P. Dwyer (R-N.J.), put it, "By confirming woman's equality under the law, by upholding woman's right to choose her place in society, the ERA can only enhance the status of traditional women's occupations. For these would become positions accepted by women as equals, not roles imposed on them as inferiors."

(Source of information: "How and Why to Ratify the ERA" published by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., Wash., D.C. 20036)