Baltimore Afro American

OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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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. — CARL MURPHY, Editor-Publisher 1889-1967.

Crumpled $5 Yule Bill

Ever since the AFRO Charities Inc. established the Mrs. Santa Program to aid deserving families at Christmas, it has received unexpected contributions which bring a special glow.

As it does every year, Mrs. Santa's mail this year includes a crumpled $5 bill contribution.

The writer of the letter said: "Dear Mrs. Santa: Last year you made me and my family so very happy. We received a Christmas basket and then later on one of your generous readers adopted us. This year, thank God, we are on our feet. As soon as I saw the announcement about Mrs. Santa, I saved this money so that I could send it to help somebody else. Merry Christmas!"

It is small wonder that the AFRO's Mrs. Santa is now in its 10th year. To date, the letters from contributors and the deserving attest to the joy the program provides. Last year, Mrs. Santa raised over $12,000 enabling her to provide for over 1,500 families.

So far this year Mrs. Santa's money bag has $10,349.09. Much more is needed. There are just two days until Christmas but there is still time for other AFRO readers to give.

Tax deductible contributions, by check or money order, should be made out to AFRO Charities, Inc. and mailed to Mrs. Santa c-o P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203 or brought directly to Mrs. Santa in the AFRO office.

Readers who can not make a cash donation are urged to adopt one of the needy families listed in this edition on Mrs. Santa's page.

We assure you you'll find, like the $5 bill contributor has, that helping someone else less fortunate will make your holiday happier.

Pictures Don't Lie

WBAL-TV Cameraman Ken Johnson was on the scene last Wednesday shortly after a Western High School custodian became ill and was gunned down by police.

AFRO staff writers viewed the films this week and studied them in slow motion.

It is amazing to see what the camera shows to be an assassination of a man who reportedly assaulted two security guards and held a Western High coed as a shield.

This marks the first time the Baltimore public has been able to see police in action like this. We think the film is of such magnitude that the Police Department itself, Commissioner Donald Pomerleau and his top aides, ought to view it when they investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of the Western High custodian.

The WBAL-TV film should help answer such questions as, "did the officers act precipitously?"

"Did they run scared?" Did they overreact?" "Were their lives in danger?"

"Were they intent on killing the man at any cost?"

"How do they explain the firing of 15 bullets, some after he was on the ground?"

"Could he have been overpowered and taken alive by other means?"

"Why was the shooting ordered once the hostage was released and the man left alone in the small room?"

"Is this assassination? Is this the proper way to arrest a man?"

"Is this wanton use of firearms?"

"Are the Baltimore police so ill equipped they must fire guns in rapid succession and then ask questions later?"

Does this kind of performance inspire confidence in the police by citizens they are expected to protect?

In previous controversial incidents involving the police, newsmen have not been able to reach the scene in time or permitted a front-row seat. As a result, the policemen's versions, even if contradicted, have prevailed.

Thanks to the courage and the stamina of WBAL-TV's photographer Johnson, a combat Marine who served in Vietnam, those who saw the film have a different picture and pictures don't lie.

Fact is, the WBAL film indicates some of our policemen are ill-prepared to perform responsibly in a tense situation.

Since the Western High killing, some school security officers claim the incident could have been prevented if they had been armed with guns.

But what the WBAL-TV film tells us is that police officers themselves lacked the courage, the cool-headedness and the control such as exhibited by the photographer. His camera never wavered. His images of those who made the arrest, who shot the guns, who handled the hostage, are clear enough for all to see.

Maybe what is needed is policemen with cameras on the scene of all arrests so that the commissioner and the public can see exactly how they perform when they are charged with protecting and upholding the law.

Just Around The Corner

At this time of year when love and hope and general good will are meant to embrace mankind, the small world of Baltimore sports finds itself instead face to face with dissension, fear, mistrust and frustration.

The unfeeling behavior of new management has served to impair both the performance and morale of the football Colts.

Threats of an invasion of nearby Washington by the potent appeal of a National League franchise have brought concern to the baseball Orioles.

Their own decision to move to another location has aroused mutual distrust between the public and the basketball Bullets.

And a continuing inability to win with reasonable consistency has infused the hockey Clippers and their fans with growing frustration.

The AFRO sympathizes. It shares the common despair but feels certain that, with genuine faith, they will find just around the corner A Merry Christmas.

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 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 injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

Christmas Verse

Dear AFRO:
Merry Christmas, AFRO-AMERICAN staff
I give credit where its due
You've really kept us in the know
Merry Christmas to all of you.
In sending this greeting, there are others
Who feel the same way too
Through shopping, some people's fingers get tired
So I thought I'd write to you
Nevertheless, I give you credit
Cause you're the only one
Who prints the things we hope to see
Yes, thanks for a job well done
So as I end my brief little greeting
I wish to make it clear
I hope you all have a healthy Christmas
And a bell of a brand New Year.

(A CUSTOMER of the AFRO)
HARRY BOLDEN

'So Many Have Helped Me Aid Others'

WHAT 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 more than 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

On Welfare Fraud

Dear AFRO:

Recently, I read, "New York finally gets tough about its welfare mess," by Nick Thimmesch, a good piece of reporting.

Sometimes, the STUPIDITY and the IGNORANCE (lack of knowledge) of the politicians, from President Nixon on down, vex my living soul to the point that I lose some needed sleep and rest.

What can or will be done about welfare fraud?

What can or will be done about crime?

TO TELL IT . . . LIKE IT IS, the answer is, men and women will never SOLVE the problems without the will and HELP of God.

The problems will become worse as time marches on.

Why?

There are many reasons and to name a few:

1. People are foolish too many times.

2. "The mind is willing, but the flesh is weak."

3. The scripture tells us, "It is not likely, that a rich man will enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

TO TELL IT . . . LIKE IT IS, how much are the RICH really giving to the poor?

The scripture reads, "It is more blessed to give, than to receive," and this goes for our federal government also.

Wake-up Mr. Nixon, most politicians and others, the welfare cheaters are not completely stupid, and ignorant.

They have eyes, ears and earthly desires or feelings, and most of all, they have various NEEDS.

I think that man has some laws that contribute to the poorness of some of the people, some laws that help to keep some poor and some laws that create too much hardships to get daily needs satisfied.

I think, to help the welfare mess in all states, one must first get and TRAIN THE RIGHT persons to be excellent sociologists, psychologists and very good Christians. Are the people most caught in welfare fraud women?

If the cost in welfare fraud is decreased, I say that the oil will rise in most cases under the words: "robbery, theft, prostitution, child neglect, illegitimate child, adultery, non-support, fornication, murder, ulcers, insanity, and a bad person who got caught.

The last paragraph of the article gave these words, "Public officials are pain fully learning it makes no sense to confer sainthood on welfare recipients, that among them are the same rogues and cheats found in all society."

Don't forget the words, "IN ALL SOCIETY."

Someone did say, "TELL IT . . . LIKE IT IS.

The scripture reads, "The truth can be like a bitter pill." — (The Rev.) GAYWOOD S. McGUIRE.

(Editor's Note: In a statement issued Nov. 27, David T. Mason, newly-appointed and first black state cabinet member, who is secretary of the Department of Employment and Social Services, commented:

"It is folly to deny that some degree of fraud and administrative error are present in the public assistance system.

"Any government agency which deals in the delivery of payments and services to people is beset with these problems.

"While I am certain that the incidence in each case is small in this particular agency, I will not be satisfied until every possible step has been taken to eliminate them insofar as is humanly possible restoring the credibility of a responsible and responsive government agency.").

Free Speech

Dear AFRO:

The recent printed attacks on Rev. Vernon Dobson on what he did or did not say at Morgan State College may be freedom of expression at its best, but was it journalism at its fairest?

When a white spokesman or institution falls in disfavor with the blacks, the daily press may allow one or two protest letters to be published. When that quota is reached, their idea of balanced reporting has been achieved, and all additional critical correspondence is rejected.

The "send your hate letters, we will print them" treatment given the Rev. Mr. Dobson awaits any free black leader who refuses to be programmed for any role that does not advance the cause of justice for members of his race.

In this electronic age when words are bounced around the world in seconds, "Freedom of Speech" is still held up as the most cherished right of the poor and non-whites.

But this horse and buggy thinking is not for the people in power. Their god is "Freedom of Communication." They own most of it. By controlling this media, they orchestrate every phase of our existence.

Both the minister and his attackers were exercising their right of free speech. But the ones who were privileged with communication were able to distort the good intentions of an honorable man.

If it were not for the black press, our minds would still be back in the nineteenth century, hissing the Rev. Vernon Dobson with the same fervor that we used to boo the opponents of Tarzan and clap at the sight of a fallen Indian.

CHARLES E. THOMAS

Mayor's Congrats

Dear AFRO:

I am delighted to salute the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN on its 80th Anniversary. During those years, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN has performed a vital service to the citizens of Baltimore through its news columns, editorials, and public affairs features.

I also commend the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN for its important contribution to the civic welfare of the entire City of Baltimore by its outstanding public service reports and programs. The resounding success of the AFRO-AMERICAN Clean Block campaign serves as an excellent example of the positive programs which have made Baltimore a better place to live and work.

The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN is one reason why Baltimore is a great city and why I am proclaiming December 5, 1972, as "BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER day" in Baltimore. — WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER (Mayor)

WASHINGTON REPORT

Yule Spirit Present On Woodington Ave.

By FARREN J. MITCHELL
(D-7TH DISTRICT-MARYLAND)
House of Representatives

This is a true story, appropriate for this Christmas season: — On Sunday, December 17th at about 7 a.m., I received a telephone call at home advising me that some seventeen to twenty families living in the apartment complex 1111 — 1117 North Woodington Ave., had been without heat all night.

As related to me by the residents, the Baltimore City Fire Department had discovered water seeping into the oil unit and had turned the furnace off.

The residents had been unable to secure help from any source.

After discovering that my telephone calls to City Hall, American Red Cross and the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company would not provide any immediate results; I decided to make a public appeal.

I asked for and received the full cooperation from Radio Station WEBB, Television Stations WJZ, WBAL and WMAR.

We requested that persons with spare electrical heaters bring them to the apartment complex, or telephone in so that the heaters could be picked up.

The community response to the appeal was unbelievably kind. People from Columbia, Essex, Pikesville and throughout the city delivered heaters or called in to offer heaters. Four businessmen delivered heaters (two of them brand new). Mrs. Essie Winslow, 732 N. Poplar Grove called me, (I was at home recovering from "The Bug"), to get the address where heaters could be delivered.

She heard the announcement on television but failed to jot down the address. About forty-five (45) heaters were collected.

Three young men, Willie Avery, William Seals and Thomas Todd, showed a spirit of serving that the total community must admire.

The Avery apartment was used as a collection point for heaters. These three young men drove around picking up heaters, and supervised the distribution of them, giving highest priority to families with small children, elderly persons or sick members.

The young, single black men who live in the complex, refused to accept heaters in their apartments until all families had been cared for.

We have many reasons to be proud of our young men. Mr. Avery is a security officer by day and a student at Community College of Baltimore in the evening.

He and his two companions worked throughout Sunday night and early Monday morning to insure comfort for the families.

There are several disturbing features about this incident. I have written Mayor Schaefer about them. Why is there no emergency city service available on Saturdays and Sundays?

If the Baltimore City Fire Department turns off a heating unit, what are its responsibilities to the tenants?

What is the city doing with regard to inspection of heating units in apartment complexes?

We have had a rash of incidents so far this winter.

Immediate remedial action must be taken.

There are so many things that go wrong, all of us get discouraged sometimes.

On the other hand, all of us should be encouraged by the spirit of the community as evidenced this weekend in Edmondson Village.

In this atmosphere, Dr. Patterson, as well as Mayor William D. Schaefer, are indeed right in not arming security guards.

In light of the attitude of the head security guard at Western, and with the present attitude and incompetence of the police as well, any number of students could be injured or killed by trigger happy security guards, operating in the line of duty.

Therefore, to members of the Board of School Commissioners, to the Mayor, I say: "Stick to your guns—no guns for security guards!"

Donald Pomerleau.

A little About a LOT

To Arm Or Not To Arm?

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

The recent shooting of a knife wielding custodian at Western High School, raises the question for the umpteenth time as to whether school security guards should be armed.

The president of the security guard division of the Fraternal Order of Police, who also is the head security guard at Western, is very much in favor of arming security guards.

In his words, had he had a gun when the custodian went berserk, the custodian would have been dead, and probably the other security guard would not have been seriously injured.

In his television interview, he became emotionally overwrought to a point where he broke down, visibly fighting back tears, and walked away from camera and microphone.

At the height of the final episode in this terrible tragedy, the hysterical girl who had been held hostage, was seen collapsing in the arms of the police, and a few minutes later, as he emerged from the room, admidst a hail of bullets, the custodian was struck dead — live and in color, courtesy of WBAL-TV.

There were so many policemen shooting at the same time, that one of them was wounded in the arm by another, so anxious were they to kill the custodian.

Immediately afterward, all news media cornered superintendent of Schools Roland N. Patterson in a specially called news conference to ask how he felt about arming security guards in schools.

As has been his reply on previous occasions, Dr. Patterson said he was opposed to it. When asked why, he gave the reason that this was a bizarre incident, which was not usual, that the schools had a responsibility to protect the pupils who might be caught in the cross-fire of an incident similar to this or any other.

I wonder whether the police had to shoot the man, when they outnumbered him four or five times and also whether police are told to shoot first and ask questions later, to achieve instant "justice."

I wonder whether several chairs used to "fend him off" like the head security guard had done, would not have been sufficient to subdue him and take him away, rather than make a seive of him.

The custodian's movements were traced on the two days prior to the tragedy, and it was found that he had been complaining of being sick, and took off from work.

This seemed to be an unusual pattern for a man whose fellow workers had described as being dependable and cooperative.

Dr. Rollo May, eminent psychotherapist, in his book "Power and Innocence", explains that the phenomena of the usually gentle, law-abiding man who suddenly goes berserk, can be be traced to a make believe passiveness, which is often the manifestation of suppressed rage.

The irrational behavior of people caught up in an irrational society, according to Dr. May, results from their inability to cope with life pressures, to blow off steam when they need to, causing them to erupt in frenzied violent rage, leading to horrible acts, such as were witnessed December 13.

As Mayor William Donald Schaefer states, this kind of tragedy, could happen anywhere, in any city building, in any business or office; arming people, would not necessarily avoid a like tragedy.

What worries me is that in recent months black people have been shot down by police, maimed, in varying circumstances. Is this the get tough policy on crime which can be defined as "open season" on blacks.

When blacks have shown in their enthusiasm for the "Stop the Killing" campaign of Cong. Parren J. Mitchell, that they intend to stop black offenders who are shooting, maiming, robbing, doping and committing other crimes against blacks in the community, it appears some police accept this phase of self-determination among blacks as an open invitation for the police to brutalize the black community.

Therefore, evidence of this kind should lay to rest the spur of the moment suggestion of City Councilman Emerson Julian that security guards in schools should be under the command of Commissioner of Police

In this atmosphere, Dr. Patterson, as well as Mayor William D. Schaefer, are indeed right in not arming security guards.

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Therefore, to members of the Board of School Commissioners, to the Mayor, I say: "Stick to your guns—no guns for security guards!"

Children Write Yule Verses

Class 205 of Coppin Elementary School, No. 132, 1114 N. Mount St., is really in the Christmas spirit.

The fourth grade youngsters, ages 9 and 10, have demonstrated their imagination and creativity by publishing in booklet form "A Christmas Treat: Poems, Prayers and Stories."

Mostly religious in nature, the verses range from four to seven lines each, and show how 13 youngsters view Christmas.

The children's teacher is 23-year-old Miss Beverlyann Jones, a June graduate of Morgan State College who majored in elementary education.

Principal of the school is Mrs. Lucille Williams. Senior teacher is Mrs. Geraldine Griner.

The children's verses follow:

"CHRISTMAS IS HERE AGAIN"

Christmas is a time for celebrating.
I like Christmas because we have fun.
My relatives always come to celebrate the Christmas holiday. So many of my friends come to visit me.
I also like Christmas because we have good things to eat on Christmas.

By GARY SPENCER

CHIRSTMAS IS A GOOD DAY

I like Christmas because it is a good day.
Jesus is Love.
He is good to my family and me.
Christmas is the time when you don't have to go to school.
I like to receive gifts on this day.
I like to share my toys with my friends.
Christmas is a good day for me, is it a good day for you?

By TONY WILKINS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas is a fun day.
Christmas is a happy day.
Christmas is a prayer day.
Christmas is a time for sharing.
Christmas is a money day.
Christmas is God's day.

By WENDELL WHITEHEAD

HAIL TO THE NEW BORN KING

The lord is good to me.
He loves me.
And I love Him.
The Lord let me live to see another Christmas; and I thank Him.
He has been good to my family all through the year.
Christmas is very special to me.

By REGINALD LEE

CHRISTMAS IS MY DAY

Jesus's Birthday is on Christmas.
We love to give gifts on Christmas
I am glad that Christmas is here.
I pray for God on Christmas.
We decorate our Christmas tree.
Jesus is my father, and I love Him.

By REX JONES

I LIKE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE

Christmas is my day.
I am happy to decorate the tree.
We have many good things to eat.
I just love to receive presents.
This is the only time I get lots of gifts.

By ANTONIO AUSTIN

CHRISTMAS IS A GOOD DAY

Christmas is a good day to have fun.
I like Christmas because we do not have to go to school.
I like Christmas because we receive toys.

By GARRY MOORE

CHRISTMAS IS MY DAY

Christmas is my day because I love toys.
I get lots of toys.
I love to eat cookies, candy canes, and lots more candy.
We decorate our Christmas tree with beautiful lights.
It really looks together.
And I like for my friends to visit me on this day.

By STEPHEN LEE

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Once upon a time there was a man who did not have a tree for Christmas. He was very poor. He said to himself, "I will go out and look for a tree." He looked here and there, but could not find one. So he prayed to God. And a friend brought a Christmas tree to him. He was very happy. Christmas had deep meaning to the man. He gave praise to the Lord.

By MARLENE BROWN

THE LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE

Once there was a man named Joe. He sold many Christmas trees to many people. One day a little boy came to Joe to buy a Christmas tree. Joe didn't have any more large trees left. He only had a little tree left. The little boy said, "I will take it." So he took it home. The Christmas tree was only 4 feet high. The boy loved the little tree. He decorated the tree, and it did look beautiful. So he sang to the tree.

By ROBERT JONES

CHRISTMAS IS MY DAY

Christmas is a lucky day.
Christmas is a beautiful day.
Christmas is a lovely day.
Christmas is a sunny day.
Christmas is a happy day.

By ANDREW BLAKE

CHRISTMAS IS MY DAY

On Christmas we put up the tree.
Santa brings us toys.
We eat duck and other things.
We have fun on Christmas day.
Our family loves to visit other families on Christmas.
And we have fun on Christmas decorating our tree.

By TIMOTHY JACKSON

CHRISTMAS IS HERE AGAIN

I like Christmas because it is a very happy day.
I receive lots of toys.
I wish I did not have to go to sleep, but my mother makes me.
I cannot sleep thinking about my presents.
I pray to God saying, "Please, God send me a pair of skates and a bike."
If my prayer is answered, I will be good.

By CARL SPRIGGS

'HELLO, SANTA' SAY THESE TOTS WHO GATHERED AROUND when AFRO Comptroller Howard H. Murphy donned a Santa suit for the Christmas party at Franklin Square Elementary School No. 95.

Truman, Shopkeeper To President

By G. JAMES FLEMING

As president, Harry Truman was a very human person. He was salty, down-to-earth, had the common touch, liked plain people and plain food.

He was very loyal to old friends and old associations — old links that were often not loyal enough to him to save him official embarrassment.

Old associations and background also meant that he could not always free himself easily from the racial orientation that was his birthright as a Missourian.

But Harry Truman, above all, was a tried and true politician and when and as a liberalized attitude made good political sense, he changed his actions where race was concerned.

As President he named the Tobias Commission which issued the challenging report on black and white conditions, entitled "To Secure These Rights."

DR. FLEMING.

He ordered desegregation of U.S. armed forces in Korea — the start of desegregation in all defense services.

Earlier, as a senator, he had headed an investigation of wartime activities, and made a most detailed and incisive report on many practices in the armed forces, including racial discrimination.

He considered Rep. William L. Dawson, of Chicago, a most important member of the national Democratic "establishment" and backed him for even higher position in the party.

"His doors were always open to him, his telephone line seldom busy.

The White House, under Truman, was not the "open house" it became under Kennedy and Johnson, but Truman was felt to be available to black Americans, as this column mentioned last week.

Truman, as President, was not considered anti-black.

He did not have a "southern strategy" which made him ignore blacks, nor one which caused him to lose southern Democratic support.

Truman was a President of his times, as he saw those times in 1945-52. He was also a President limited by his own education and experiences.

Somehow, nevertheless, he touched the heartstrings of the masses of people.

It was these masses who repudiated the public opinion polls in 1948, and returned him to office after he had trail-blazed from coast to coast with his off-the-cuff campaigning.

One could almost feel the tide turning, as railroad-stop crowds shouted, "Give 'em hell, Harry."

Even the dropping of the first atomic bombs did not turn the people against President Truman — at least, not most of the people.

Truman started out just one step removed from the "log cabin" of history. He was a smalltown haberdasher (a shopkeeper); he was "just a police judge."

He then rose to Congress and to responsible status in the Senate. Then circumstances beyond his control catapulted him into the White House.

Truman's rise to the Presidency may have been the last time — for a long period — that a poor man, without too many "fat cats" as "friends," could become President.

These are some of the thoughts these days about Harry S. Truman. History will have much more to say.

LUCKY RICHARD — More than once, this column has reacted to President Nixon's good luck — his ability to turn bad times into good times, to make victory out of defeat. Now, it is Vietnam.

He won reelection on the pledge of bringing peace to that ravaged country. It was to be—peace before Election Day; then peace before Christmas, or in a few days — or so people seemed to understand.

Two or three weeks ago, "just one more conference" was to wrap it all up, according to Henry Kissinger. Certainly, to most Americans, there would be, a cease-fire by now. Certainly, too, the POWs might be on the way home.

There is none of this. But Richard Nixon is not the loser — except for "face," perhaps.

Vietnam, the POWs and peace have all served his purpose, kept him lucky. He won reelection.

WOMEN AND NIXON — Somehow, we thought that, on his second go-round, President Nixon would name a woman to his cabinet, as a department head. But this seems not to be.

Despite marked support from women in Election Day (those irate mothers in Pontiac, Mich., and their kind), he has again bypassed the females.

Mrs. Anne Armstrong of Texas becomes a White House counsellor, "with cabinet rank," but to the layman, that is not exactly the same as being head of a department.

GUESSING GAME — A real game it is guessing who will succeed Thurgood Marshall as associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court when he retires.

What can be expected of President Nixon?

He might be magnanimous and name another black lawyer to the Court — but there are not too many young, black Republican lawyers who are also outstanding.

Or, if they are young, black and outstanding, they are not Nixon-brand "strict constructionists."

Perhaps, the President will name a white Gentile woman or a Jewish man (there is now no Jewish member of the court) — or a Jewish woman, thus attempting to satisfy whites, Jews and women at one and the same time.

What's your guess?

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Here is a heartwarming Christmas story, entitled, 'Gift For A Lonely Lady.' It is by Michael Johnson of Modesto, Calif., and is reprinted from the current issue of Guideposts:

"I'm usually pretty much on the receiving end of things—Christmas is no exception. Last year, I spent Christmas Eve with my foster parents and then Christmas morning I left early to go by bus to Sacramento to see my real family. I was able to spend most of the day with them before returning to Modesto.

"When I arrived back, it was 11:30 at night, and I was very tired. Although I was very pleased that I'd been able to see my family, something was wrong. I felt rather empty and I couldn't quite understand it. I guess the feeling that I don't really belong sometimes makes me unhappy.

It just didn't feel like Christmas, even though I'd actually had two Christmases.

"I was so tired that instead of walking the two miles home to save money, I decided to take the taxi that was waiting at the curb. The driver was a woman.

"Her tired, gentle voice said, "Where to?" I gave directions and then sat back. After a few blocks I found myself asking her how her Christmas had been.

"She said she hadn't had much of a Christmas because she'd been working since ten in the morning. "Besides," she told me, "it gets very lonely not having any of my family home at Christmas. It's just another day to me."

"I didn't know what to say to the woman and I was glad when we pulled up in front of the house. I paid my fare and she drove off. Everyone was sleeping so I went to bed too.

"But I couldn't sleep when I thought about the woman who had no Christmas. Suddenly I was ashamed of how I'd felt, of my own self-pity when I had two families, really. Then an idea came to me. Maybe I could do something to keep her Christmas from being a total regret.

"I made a basket of the nice things

MRS. MOSS

the family had enjoyed at our Christmas festivities: fruits, homemade candies, cookies and a piece of homemade pie.

"I wrapped the basket in fancy paper and called the cab company. I asked them to send the woman back out to the house and identified her by the number of the cab.

"When she arrived, I asked how much the fare was to come out. She told me and I paid her.

"Change your mind?" She asked curious.

"No, ma'am," I told her. Then I handed her the basket. As she read the card I'd enclosed, which said,

"This may not make up for not having your family with you, but at least you will know that someone does care, someone bigger, much bigger, than you and I." I saw tears form.

"I went back in the house after she left. I think that just had to be my greatest Christmas. The Christmas that I gave!"

Christmas is not Christmas in this corner without a Christmas greeting from a special friend, Mary Carter Smith, the librarian, author and world traveller.

The following is from her this year's unique greeting; entitled, "Like Us, Like You":

You were once a little child
Like us
You were born poor
Like us
You laughed
You cried
Like us
You had work to do
Like us
Sometimes we fuss
Did You?
Help us to be loving
Like You
To help people out
Like You used to do
To remember
That Christmas
Is a time of joy
When we remember
A real child
Like us
A God Child
Like You

The Resourceful Generation: — Latest money making venture on college campuses — groups which specialize in sending "Survival Kits for Final Exams."

At the University of Wisconsin one survival kit which is called "a message of moral support from parents," contains not only such staples as cheese, soup, jelly and brownies, but also "memory food buckets of peanuts — elephants never forget," and a "knowledge hammer (with only a few taps one can become an Einstein or a Charlie Brown)" — all for the price of $4.95.

Also at the U. of W., parents can send "Badger Baskets" filled with oranges, apples, pears, bananas and mints for $5 during final exam time to "help bolster confidence and ease depression."

This group also sends birthday cakes for $6 and Valentine Day Fruit Baskets for $5. Well!

Doctor's Note: The Maryland Medical Association held its semi-annual meeting at the beautiful Farmhouse Restaurant down in Salisbury, Md. on a Sunday ago.

Officers of the group are president, Dr. Harold Ramsey; 1st. vice president, Dr. John Chissell; 2nd. vice president, Dr. Louise Young; secretary, Dr. John Braxton Jr. and treasurer, Dr. Gilbert Banfield.

Cuff NOTE: — This black medical group is a constituent Society of the National Medical Association whose president Edmund Casey was guest speaker.

Dr. Emerson Walden, former President of the Maryland Medical Association and the National Medical Association, told of his recent trip to China.

The Women's Auxiliary met at the same time. Both groups were hosted by the Delmarva Medical Society under the leadership of Dr. E. A. Purnell.

The 1973 meeting will be in Baltimore.

NOW and THEN

70 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."

(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

South Africa Apartheid

In our letters to the editor column this week, a writer points out the similarities between apartheid in South Africa and discrimination or jim crow here in the U.S.

Similar comparisons are made in a pamphlet issued this week, by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, located at 10 Jack Frost Lane here in Baltimore.

The pamphlet notes that apartheid means, no right to vote, jail without trial, no right to strike, no freedom of movement. These are basic human rights which are denied to over 68 per cent of the people living in South Africa because their skins are black.

Freedom-loving Americans can do something to help the South Africans if they understood that what helps a brother, there, helps us here at home.

Here is what readers can do!

1. Ask Congressman to vote "no" to sugar quotas for South Africa; against NASA tracking station, and in South Africa; and yes, for money for the U.S. trust fund to aid victims for apartheid or discrimination.

And readers can protest to U.S. companies during business in South Africa and boycott their products.

A Column Of CHOICE

On Guns In Schools

By MARION BANFIELD

By the time this column appears, the Board of School Commissioners will most likely have issued a statement about arming the school security men.

By this time I hope many parents have written to our superintendent, Dr. Patterson and to Dr. Walton, chairman of the Board of School Commissioners about the dangers of arming school guards.

Let us remember that these gentlemen have been hired to protect our children from harm.

A gun is a weapon to maim or kill.

A gun does not belong in any school building.

Our schools are not junior jails.

If the guards were to use a gun and bullets were to kill a child, the guards would feel as terrible as any of us present to our youth.

Our students are exposed to violence in so many ways that certainly there ought not be any unnecessary addition of symbolic death.

Why should boys and girls have to walk the halls fearing a bullet?

Why should men who are to protect be feared as men who might accidentally kill?

Better by far, is for these security officers to be trained to handle emergencies with expertness without guns.

MRS. BANFIELD

Along with the skills is needed an attitude of respect for human life.

Along with the respect is needed an awareness of a positive role of a male image which these gentlemen can present our youth.

A man does not need a gun.

The tragedy of Western High School has nothing to do with arming of security guards.

Our young men need no additional images of men as users or carriers of guns.

Our choice is to be awafe of the many emotional tensions of our school pupils and teachers. Our awareness gives us no choice but to work toward lessening of tensions.

Let us never choose guns

What The AFRO Stands For

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

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, except those constitutionally authorized.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.