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.

New Year Thoughts

The most impressive, and certainly the most important aspect of the Christmas week is that it brings to us a brand new year.

When AFRO readers open their eyes next Monday morning they will have in their possession a new page upon which to write a 12-month history. From January 1st until December 31st they will have a better chance, on the whole, than they have had in any past year.

For whatever have been the lights and shadows that have swept across our lives during 1972, like Old Scrooge, we start the New Year with a new chance.

The New Year brings a new slate upon which everyone must write for himself.

Perhaps some of us will be tempted, as we scan happenings of the day (in our block, our city, our country and throughout the world) to overemphasize the confusion of the moment, and ponder, after all, whether Christmas is the anniversary of a world really headed towards the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man that Christ came to establish.

But more sober reflection will convince anyone that this world of ours is nearer the goal which Jesus Christ of Nazareth set for it than in any previous year since that day Wise Men from the East found their way to the manger in Bethlehem.

It would be a good thing if AFRO readers would take down their Bibles and read one of the versions of the birth of Christ, Luke 11:4-18 is a good one. Renew your faith and hope in humanity with that passage the apostle wrote: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Renew also your own will and survey your own opportunity to help bring this about.

The way to get ahead is to start early and work hard. The way to be happy is to look for it, want it and recognize when it comes to you.

(From the Papers of Carl Murphy)

We're Stumped!

In sports, when our Sam Lacy is stumped, we're stumped.

For years, the AFRO has campaigned for the opportunity to emerge to all levels of professional sports.

Our efforts — along with the efforts of others, of course — have been marginally successful. Black athletes have attained status as players, officials and even as front office personnel, though not in Baltimore.

But we've never quite made the domain of the baseball manager or football head coach.

At the moment, there are more openings for new head coaches than in any one year in memory. Vacancies exist in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New England and St. Louis, with another possibility at New Orleans where management says the situation is being "evaluated."

But let's take those "opportunities" one at a time and try them for size.

In Baltimore, front-office interference seems virtually assured. Philadelphia is a city of losers, as witness the plight of the baseball Phillies, the football Eagles and the basketball 76ers.

New England and St. Louis are such pathetic aggregations that even our Sam Lacy would hesitate to saddle a coach with, especially if he's a black pioneer.

And New Orleans repeatedly has shown a disinclination to accept black players to say nothing of the prospect of a black ordering around whites.

Admittedly, neither we nor an ambitious coach should insist on looking for a hand-tailored, fault-free situation in which to break the ice. But gee . . . .

Unwed's Heirs Have Rights

In an unsigned order upholding lower court decisions in cases from Baltimore and New Haven, Conn., the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled illegitimate children have a right to a full share of a deceased father's Social Security benefits.

The AFRO always has taken the position that children have no control over their coming into the world and once here should be entitled to every consideration. It is comforting to know that the Supreme Court feels the same way.

Only Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justices Rehnquist and Stewart felt oral arguments desired by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare should have been heard.

A 1965 provision in the Social Security Act made it possible for children of unwed parents to share death benefits. However, in 1967 a new provision was attached by the Congress that resulted in many illegitimate children being denied benefits.

Under the latter provision the illegitimate child or children could have received only the residual, or left over benefits, after the widow and other children got their due monthly shares.

To explain how that works, consider this situation: A worker averaged $5,400 a year. At age 65, his primary insurance would have provided him a retirement benefit of $250.60 monthly. However, had he died, the maximum his family (or survivors) could draw monthly would have been $467.90 monthly.

Normally, a widow and the children are eligible for up to $188 each in a situation such as covers this worker, as long as it falls within the limitations of the $467.90. If this worker left a widow and two children, for instance, their equal shares of the family allowable would be about $156 each.

Since all the allowable $467.90 would be taken up by the widow and legitimate children, any illegitimate children would have been cut out of benefits under the provision ruled illegal by the courts.

What must happen now, under the court's ruling, is that just as the wife and children had to take less than the allowable $188 monthly to stay within the available $467.90 monthly, they would have to take an even smaller amount to divide the $467.90 in equal shares with the illegitimate children.

The court further ruled that illegitimate children denied funds as result of the illegal provision, must be paid. This will run into millions of dollars.

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

'It's Up To You, Son'

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

Two - Way Street

Dear AFRO:

To those who mail Revenue Sharing checks — remember that the Post Office has machines that can shred paper as well as ITT machines. Try using Registered Mail; no such machines involved — faster service for your customers.

To those who work at HEW — remember that a L.S.M. employee has about 8-10 of a second to read your correspondence. Try typing the address, faster service for your customers.

To those firms who mail large volumes of mail — remember to use the proper zip codes and make certain the zip code does not slide to either side of the window envelope — faster service for your customers.

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To those firms who mail large

Rev. Dobson

Dear AFRO,

We have noted with dismay, a speed of letters to the editors, largely from Jewish individuals, pertaining to our president, Vernon Dobson and certain public remarks made at a recent rally.

We have noted a wreckful temper in these remarks designating the Rev. Mr. Dobson as being irresponsible and racist in his remarks. Those who were present at the rally, including your reporters, could set the record straight, in regard that his remarks were taken out of context in such a manner as to ferment the kind of fervor that has resulted in such letters.

We desire to go on record as to our confidence in Rev. Mr. Dobson as a champion of human rights for all people. He has constantly spoken for the rights of Jews and non-Jews. We support his rights to speak in conscience.

Irresponsible selective reporting is always the method the press seeks to divide communities that ought to have reciprocal relations.

The Alliance contents as did its president, the Rev. Mr. Dobson, that there are grave problems existing between the Jewish and black Communities that need to be addressed if the deterioration that exists is to discontinue.

Jonn V. Trautwein
Corresponding Secretary

Bus Driver

Sometimes administrative red tape is responsible for a dispute getting out of hand.

This seems to be what happened with Baltimore school bus drivers who went on strike last week following a misunderstanding.

On the one side there were those recently who played up the fact that handicapped youngsters would have to find their own way to school. On the other hand the drivers' spokesman was saying at no time did they refuse to drive the handicapped children to school and that traditionally they had an interest in seeing that the children, many of their own, got to school safely.

So the next question is what happens if everybody is interested?

Those who observed the confrontation between school officials on one hand and the bus drivers' spokesman on the other, may correctly conclude that there was a whole lot of red tape and too much talk as both sides tried to resolve a misunderstanding.

J. E. COPE

Rec Pleased

Dear AFRO:

Your excellent coverage of our recreation programs, this summer, added greatly to a very successful year for the Bureau of Recreation.

In addition, your support of the Recreation and Park Loan Program played a large part in its passage by almost a two to one margin.

Your cooperation has contributed much to the citizens of Baltimore by disseminating information concerning recreational activities that they may be aware of the facilities and programs available.

Sincere thanks for your wonderful assistance, and may the New Year be the best.

A. L. COTTRILL
Superintendent
VIRGINIA S. BAKER
Supervisor, Children's Activities and Publicity

Gov. Mandel

Dear AFRO:

I agree with your recent editorial that Governor Mandel has an excellent opportunity to rectify the unequal and unfair representation on the District Court.

I truly believe that Attorney James Nundy of Cherry Hill would make a fine member of the bench and Governor Mandel would do himself proud if he named him. He has already been nominated by the judicial committee.

J. F. FRANKLIN

Mayor Schaefer

Dear AFRO:

It was nice of Mayor Schaefer to write about his hopes for Baltimore in the year ahead and I liked his letter which appeared on page one.

I live in the inner city but I know enough about the problems of our city to understand that the Mayor needs on his staff an executive assistant who is black and who can have some power to act, especially to see that we black people get fair representation on all boards and commissions.

(MRS.) LIANE SCOTT
(A hardworking housewife and mother of 5)

About Juvenile Court

DEAR AFRO:

What do, we, the people of Baltimore City have to do to wake up Juvenile Court?

Senior citizens cannot walk the streets in broad daylight.

They are beaten, robbed, and sometimes even killed by juveniles.

One of these persons may be your mother, father or someone else close to you.

We are afraid to leave our homes for fear they will be burglarized.

We are afraid to do these things that are our right to do as human beings.

Our children cannot go to school, church, store or any place without the fear that they may be attacked.

What's the answer to these problems?

I admit that they are as complicated as the problems, but one way of solving them is not by the leniency practiced by the authorities (judges and masters) of Juvenile Court.

Discipline is not a dirty word.

When you see a child about to touch a hot stove you correct him by smacking his fingers, hoping that he may not injure himself.

Discipline is a forgotten word with the authorities of Juvenile Court.

Forgotten is the victim of vicious crimes. — JOYCE TURNER

ED. NOTE:

Juvenile Court Master Paul A. Smith states:

"If a youngster needs to be removed from the community for the protection of both himself and society, he will be taken out and placed in some sort of custodial care, be it a hospital, home or training school.

"The evidence that we're actually doing this is that there are hundreds of youngsters now in these institutions.

"We have a number of different dispositions to choose from and we utilize them all, depending on the seriousness of the act.

"If the letter writer means that we're not automatically carting everyone who comes in here to training school, she's right.

"If the person is a first offender, has a good family, social and school background and looks likely to be rehabilitated, we take that into account.

"For offenses as serious as those mentioned in the letter, however, we use the degree of custodial care we think necessary.

A little About a LOT

Reflections On New Year's

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

During the holidays, one thinks and reminisces about family and friends, especially when one's children become grown (our baby will be eighteen in '73) and all the grandchildren, coming right along.

I am reminded especially of a story told by our eldest son about an experience he had in college.

He was studying to be and electrical engineer, and was fascinated by motors, batteries, transistors — mostly a hold-over from endless involvement with HO trains at Christmas.

He and a fellow student were offered a car for the small sum of $25. Naturally, they were overjoyed with the bargain. Where could one get a car to work on at one's leisure, using all his new found knowledge about engines?

In the bargain, the man selling the car, would allow them to work on the car in his garage!

Week after week, they worked and slaved to get the car in running condition, until that happy day, when they would drive it out of the garage, owners of that precious possession — a car of their own, a car they had practically resurrected from the grave!

Our son turned to his co-owner and said, "Come on let's get this jalopy out of here, I can't wait to try it out on the road."

Whereupon his friend replied, "But I can't drive, you move it out."

In amazement our son confessed, "But I can't drive either!"

So the car languished in the garage, for the rest of the semester, all the while the owner of the garage nagged them to remove it.

Finally, they paid the heavy price of non-communication — $60 — just to have the car hauled away.

All that time, work and money, they had invested had been flowed away, because they had never communicated to one another, the vital requirement of owning a car — the owner's ability to drive!

This story always reminds me of how most people spend their lives never communicating about the most important essentials of understanding one another, in order to work together.

Like the anonymous saying: "I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realized that what you heard is not what I meant."

As we face the New Year, when War seems to be Peace, when poor people will be getting shafted in far greater numbers than ever before, when bombers get lost over North Vietnam, and billions of dollars are spent on the moon in the name of "peace," this kind of non-communication in the Nixon Administration devised to confuse, to alienate us, has become a sickness in the black community.

Our lack of communication in the black community will ultimately be the death of us, if we don't get together.

All the groups, that seem to be working independently, now more than ever, need a public forum where exchange of ideas, where strategies can be planned to turn the impending darkness into light.

All of us have been working with the Community Strike Force must resolve this coming New Year, to be about the business of winning peace, of defending the poor, and of loving each other more than ever, so that the identifiable enemy will be defeated and this troubled land will be directed toward the glorious age of all our hopes and aspirations.

As I watched the young high school blacks on "North Star" the Sunday before Christmas Eve, and heard one young lady, all of 13 years, talking about her great optimism, I felt a bit sad and ashamed of our generation, because we have spent too much time being doom-spellers, too much time recounting the hopelessness, too little time planning our own destines.

May this New Year fill us with a great resolve, a great surge of energy, a great determination to do or die for our own liberation.

For, at least through COMMUNICATION, through an interaction of love, we may begin to see our hopes fulfilled for peace in our time, and good will for all mankind.

And The Roads Turned Red

By VAL HYMES

The holidays went dark for the families of 18 motorists last year. They were killed in accidents here during the Christmas and New Year weekends.

And the roads turned red from the blood of the 4,111 men, women and children who were hurt in the 5,000 crashes in the state last December.

At this writing, 772 human lives had been blotted out on Maryland highways.

How many of them could have been saved?

Governor Marvin Mandel wants to know, and right away.

He has seen close friends killed, children orphaned and colleagues crippled for life. And he has facts before him to indicate that these appalling figures could be cut in half if everyone could reach the kind of help offered at the Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

This University of Maryland facility, which is fed by State Police helicopters and specially-trained crews, has attracted world-wide attention for its research into the causes of death from "life-threatening" injuries, and for its around-the-clock teamwork to save lives.

But only a small percentage of the Marylanders needing help can reach the center. The rest die in local hospitals where emergency treatment is, in many cases, a by-product.

Mandel and the Legislature have approved funds every year for the Center, but there isn't enough money for enough helicopters or enough beds, although there are 22 beds now and 10 more come through in July.

Meanwhile, a doctor trained at the Center went to Illinois, set up a statewide coordinated trauma care system and attracted national publicity and federal funds, although Illinois does not have a Center like Marhland's.

And Sen. J. Glenn Beall (R. Md.) has been unable to convince the Congress to go ahead yet with his emergency care bill for grants to states and local communities who beef up their programs. And just recently, a big HEW grant came into the state for emergency communications — one of the keys to a state-wide network of emergency care. But it can only be used in one area.

Governor Mandel doesn't like Maryland to be upstated, and he can sense a public anger over the cost of health care, hospital rooms, and insurance when emergency rooms are inept, overcrowded, understaffed and rude.

Since the life of Maryland House Clerk James P. Mause was saved at the Shock Trauma Center at the close of a recent session of the General Assembly, Governor Mandel has encouraged the concept of the Center. But the state-wide plan never came about. Now he wants action. And he wants to use the resources the state already has.

State Planner Val Wabbe was tapped to coordinate all the elements in this complex system: health officials, health planners, hospitals, rescue squads, police.

So the shirt-sleeve meetings between county officials, regional planners, University officials and Senator Beall, for example, are in full swing. They are guided by a sense of urgency and two simple guidelines from the governor.

Mandel wants a state-wide system, but one that will reach all of Maryland's people. And he wants to insure that it will serve only emergencies — not as a taxi or routine treatment service.

As he sees it, apparently, if there is some way to cut the bloodbath in half, let's do it right now. The state has the professional expertise, he says. Why can't we use it?

The plan is shaping up as a satellite system of emergency centers around the Baltimore center in five regions: Western Maryland, Eastern Shore, the Washington metropolitan area, Baltimore and mid-State, probably.

They would be linked by a communications network to all of the state's best emergency resources, the Shock Trauma Center's experts, Civil Defense, hospitals, State Police Aviation Division and rescue squads, for example.

The exact reason for the governor's insistence that this system get under way now may not be important. But there are those who knew he was deeply affected by the deaths of the two police rescuers who were killed when they crashed in fog as they flew to Cambridge from Baltimore to save a drug victim.

The tragedy was compounded by the fact that the victim had already died and the chopper was sent back — but never got the message.

Trooper First Class Thomas Noyle had three young children. Trooper First Class Phillip Russ left one infant and a pregnant wife to face Christmas alone.

A state-wide system of emergency centers, transportation and communications may have prevented those deaths. And it may relax the tension that continues between the rescue squads and helicopter crews when they find themselves competing for the injured on Maryland's highways.

But it also means a small gleam of light for those for whom the holidays went dark.

Postscript: THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND for the children of the two state policemen is growing slowly.

Contributions may be sent to the Shock Trauma Center, University Hospital, 22 S. Green St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Who's on First? MARYLAND'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR is Howard County's Mrs. Lillian Martin, an English team teacher, who says "liking children" is the main requirement for good teaching — and one that can't be faked. And she feels we should stop trying to educate kids the way we want and teach them the ways they can learn and want to learn.

Fatherless Get Overdue Present

By G. JAMES FLEMING

"There may be illegitimate parents, but there are no illegitimate children."

This is what a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice said a good many years ago, as this writer sat in his court while a college student. But, this assertion has stuck with me ever since and I have repeated it many times, as occasions have arisen.

It comes back to mind with the good news that the U.S. Supreme Court has underlined this position, in reference to Social Security benefits for children born out of wedlock — so-called "illegitimate" children.

By this action of the highest court, Social Security can no longer reduce or deny survivor's payments to an "illegitimate" offspring while giving full benefits to surviving children born in wedlock.

Under the court's decision, all

DR. FLEMING

offspring will share equally in whatever amount is available, based on the deceased father's income, contributions to Social Security and length of employment.

The old practice of discriminating against "outside" children ("illegitimates") has been declared unconstitutional. No longer will these children, already at a disadvantage, be further penalized.

No longer will the government itself, through Social Security, add to the difficulties of children born out of wedlock.

No longer will these minors of all ages, largely children of the poor, be stigmatized and short-changed.

The pitiable thing is that this kind of discrimination continued for over 35 years after the Social Security System was launched, despite all the liberals in the Congress and despite all the protective organizations in the land, such as the NAACP, ACLU, the labor unions and women's lib.

It appears that even the mothers who have been victims of the archaic practice against their children have not been aware of the discrimination. Certainly they have not waged any campaign against it! (It may be that, under society's pressure, they have been afraid to call attention to illegitimacy.

It is worth noting that the court's decision was 6-3 favoring equal treatment for all surviving children, and that Nixon appointees were on both sides of the question.

"Long overdue" is the reaction that impresses itself in reference to this decision.

NOW and THEN

ATTACK ON NEWS — Not so good news for America whose people, most of the time, have felt sure of their "freedom of speech" and "freedom of the press."

This column has dealt with this problem before — this eroding of First Amendment rights.

Now, however, not only are newsmen being jailed for not revealing the sources of their news, but the federal government is mounting an all-out campaign against TV news.

Now, it is not just Vice-President Agnew's needling TV (that is his right, if he so desires), but the White House plans to introduce legislation making local TV stations responsible for the network news they carry. In other words, it expects to use individual subscribing stations as clubs over the heads of the networks, while the government stands with a club over each local station.

This governmental "club" is no mere figure of speech. This much was made clear a few days ago by the White House Director of Telecommunications Policy, Clay T. Whitehead.

This club is the licensing power of the Federal Communications Commission — the power to grant or refuse a license; the power to suspend or cancel a license; the power to refuse renewal of a license.

Members of the Federal Communications Commission are appointed by the President!

The White House defends this tough, anti-democratic policy, this treat to freedom of speech and of the press, as a step in protecting the people's right to have unbiased news.

It rejects the explanation that the existing competition among the three networks and the checking and double-checking by other media are sufficient protection.

To stop at this point is not enough. The country is in danger whenever any administration starts attacking the freedom of the press (including radio and television) and the freedom of speech.

American history supports this charge, even when the knights on horseback claim they are protecting "the people."

The history of other countries also should frighten us, as attacks on the press have always been among the first signs of those other restrictions and restraints which precede reduction or abolition of all freedom.

As in the past, also, not enough people are aroused over the current campaign (warfare) against newspapermen, TV commentators and their media — a campaign made possible, unfortunately, by a recent Supreme Court decision.

No one, outside the press and a few lawyers, seems deeply alarmed about the White House maneuvers to throttle press freedom.

They fail to recognize that what happens to one segment of constitutional rights today, will happen to their favored section tomorrow; just as what happens to one racial or religious group will descend on another such group tomorrow.

Be there any, still so naive as to say, "It can't happen here!"

'An Attempt To Drive Nails In Coppin's Coffin'

Dear AFRO:

During the past few weeks many words have appeared in the media berating the inferiority of Coppin State College and serving much to reinforce the prevailing notion that that which is predominantly black is predominantly inferior.

The sickening thing is that some of the purveyors of down-through-inferiority actually hope these words will help to build and improve Coppin, while others want to give this appearance while actually using the subject to gain publicity through lip service in the media.

Hanging an inferiority tag on a college which made the change from a teachers college to a liberal arts college almost at the same time it lost its autonomy; a college which carries over a financial gap which generated, during the era of "separate but equal" (and neglected), and which continues to be under-financed because of the per capita system does not take into consideration conditions which really prevail at the institution, does nothing to build that institution.

So a harangue about inferiority can be viewed as little more than an attempt to drive nails in the coffin of the college, and the purveyors of inferiority have, apparently come to bury her; not to raise her, knowing the good of her will be interred with her academic skeleton.

One wonders if some of those "friends" of Coppin, who seem so bent on changing the name to "Coffin State College," really have as their goal the elevation of the institution of their own employment or to which, they have sent their child for the prestige.

One wonders if others feel that pinning the inferiority tag on Coppin will excuse them for neglecting to give Coppin the support in our legislative bodies which their contituents should expect.

In the words of Yeats, "a beggar on horseback lashes a beggar on foot."

Regardless, it behooves the "friends" of Coppin to realize the problems presented to the president, faculty and staff of Coppin State College.

Coppin is an inner city school with an inner city campus. This is a fact of geography which serves only to make Coppin cramped and different physically from the suburban schools, but not inferior to them.

Coppin grew out of a segregated dual school system. That left her neglected by state budgets; not endowed with the budgets of the late blooming campus which recently sprung forth full grown.

The mission of Coppin changed from training teachers to liberal arts. That does not make her inferior. It only burdens her with a difficult transition of image.

If the detractors would consider these things they could better appreciate the efforts and successes of the administration and faculty at Coppin State College.

They could realize thl is a time for closing ranks to push for adequate budget for the college. They could realize that cursing the darkness serves only to intensify blind spots and negative passion.

If those critics of Coppin would like to render the service to the inner city which they should, they might form a task force to obtain jobs and grants in aid for Coppin students, to obtain endowments and private grants to close the funding gap which had its origin in the "separate but equal" dual school system.

They could maintain a watch dog vigilance onthe legislature and the board governors which ignores the origin of Coppin and its funding gap when it prepares and approves the budget.

Task forces to heckle and distract the faculty and administration of Coppin or to generate publicity for the critic can serve no useful purpose to the inner city. It should end. — ERNEST O. BROWN, M.D.

A Column Of CHOICE

Nixon's Power Splurge

By MARION BANFIELD

Anyone not frightened by Richard Nixon's vindictive power splurge in resuming heavy bombing of North Vietnam must have no knowledge of the realities of history, politics or human exploitation.

The present power vengeance being directed by the President of the United States is an atomic bomb version of a ghetto hater throwing lye in an opponent's face. This is a bigger version of the Friday night shootin's.

Mr. Nixon wants things that please him. He has the power and prestige to bring pressure against American newsmen, against American television stations, against American blacks, against international laws, and against ethics, moral and religious decency.

The man put back in the White House by American citizens was place there largely because of his anti-human behavior.

Even though he was reared in a home of Quakers whose historical reverence for non-violence has given them an international reputation for peace, this lover of power is the purveyor of indescribable violence in moral and physical context.

There is one fact that we need to understand. A man who is cruel to any group of people is equally capable of that cruelty to any people.

This man elected to leadership has demonstrated a shrewdness in exploiting hatred for people.

MRS. BANFIELD

He is the leader of money management for big corporations.

Education and human poverty have not the priority of war machinery industries.

If it is all right to bomb the brown people of Vietnam, then what makes black people less vulnerable to destruction?

If brown and black people are such easy victims of vindictive might, then who guarantees the rights and freedom of white people?

If history teachers in secondary schools find lessons boring, then assign a study of Richard Milhaus Nixon as a project.

If you think it can't happen here, then dig out the history of the internment of the Japanese at Tule Lake in 1942.

Our choice is to write our protests against bombing of Vietnam.

Our choice is to write our protests against White House pressure to censor newsmen and broadcasts.

Our choice is to know that only a free people have a free press.

Our choice is to recognize that we citizens had better exercise our power to control while we have some power left.

Without a free press we have the choice of dictatorship or death.

Without putting an end to the the 25 years of bombing to which the white man has subjected the Vietnamese, we have the choice of setting up even greater violence and disregard for any decency in human relationships.

We act now while we have choice. Mr. Nixon is not a lover of free choice.

Thoughts On Counselors

Dear AFRO: With the release of Baltimore city schools' probationary counselors in August, 1972, there arose the question of the "relevancy" of the whole counseling program.

The tenured counselors of the system have felt the waves of insecurity, too, and have felt pressed to justify their existence. "Accountability" — a catch-all phrase for scientific measurement and evaluation — has forced many other service-oriented professions to attempt to measure their programs as well.

In education, to a degree, we have been able to evaluate scholastic achievement through our testing programs.

Now we are asked to measure the human development of our young people in much the same way to determine the effectiveness of the counseling program. We counselors are asked to be accountable for students' developmental growth as the teachers are required to measure their yearly academic progress.

In many counseling journals, psychologists and counselors write of testing personality performance through various criteria.

The fruits of their efforts are often nebulous, because, in dealing with individuals in a group situation, there are just too many variables in each case to validate their conclusions.

I frankly delight in this fact. My pleasure is not in the failures of our colleagues, but in the spirit of the individuals who act independently of predicted behavior patterns.

It is this God-given quality of each human being to be singularly unique that is the basis of my whole philosophy of counseling and, in my opinion, gives counselors a reason for being. It is our responsibility to protect and enhance this individuality in our students.

Our whole society dictates grouping and consolidating for efficiency. Our schools are forced to conform to this demand. What can be sacrificed is the uniqueness of each student, unless the schools provide personnel to consider each student as a vital part of this whole.

The concern of the counseling profession for the individual child, not as a member of a certain class or as an administrative statistic, is the justification we can offer for our existence.

It is argued that teachers and administrators can adequately achieve this goal of education. In smaller school systems or in private schools I concede that they can, but we are discussing Baltimore City — where massiveness is a way of life.

It is functionally impossible to ask administrators and teachers to work with children in a non-judgmental, helping capacity. Their job descriptions, as executives and imparters of knowledge — for which they are held accountable — denies them this role.

I have poured over the interview cards I wrote on each of my students in a personal attempt at accountability. In cases where an environmental change could evoke progress, I could measure successes or failures. When I provided a supportive relationship with a personal problem of development, I could not measure the effect of counseling.

Only years and the ultimate maturity of the child can establish the success of the alternative behavior the student and I agreed upon.

Despite the fact that I remain unemployed, I believe in the importance of the counselor's role, and am optimistically hoping for reassignment when I complete certification.

I have invested four years in a post-master's program to become accredited in an area which I sincerely believe supplies the schools with a vital service.

It has been, and hopefully will again, be my privilege to be a part of a system that looks to the individual children to measure their overall success.

EILEEN DEZELL

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."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

It's NOT A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Many women who are considering entering or reentering the job market are at a loss as to how to proceed. It takes more than just looking at the job advertisements, walking into an establishment and filling out an application.

Today there are vast opportunities and quite a diversity of possibilities.

Since women have been the victims of systemic discrimination for a long time, it means determining one's life style and what changes one can reasonably expect to experience in the new life style.

There aren't any hard and fast ten commandments for women (and men) to make decisions easy, but here are a few suggestions to help those who may be at the crossroads.

First, take a good look at yourself, where you are now and where do you want to go. You need to be very honest in evaluating yourself.

Look at your performances and determine what you do well and what you don't do so well. Remember that none of us is equally good at everything.

Then look at the plain factor of energy. Certain jobs demand different kinds of procedures, so you must determine how much energy you want to give.

In other words, how important is this to you. Careers are developmental and require extensive planning and initiative. Some people are really "go" people with boundless energy and the will to do.

Others are not full of rippling muscles and usually wait to be pushed. Determine which category you fall into.

Now get off of dead-center and get information. New information brings new ideas. Don't get indigestion by finding out too much, too fast. Then, try it on for size in your mind and thoughts and also talk to other people for more ideas and information.

Then what! Make a decision and this will be difficult to do. Where there is a choice, decisions can be difficult. Now, go after your goal.

Once you have charted your course, develop a sense of urgency in pursuing this course, knowing that while there are still hurdles for women to overcome, there aren't as many as there were. Good Luck!—

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 steam company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.