Baltimore Afro-American

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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, (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher, 1922-1967

The Holiday For MLK

It has been said that, sooner or later, the United States Government usually catches up with the leadership of the people. We hope this will be true in the case of the drive to make the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an annual, legal national holiday.

It is high time that Congress pass the pending legislation to create this holiday each January 15th. Millions of people already celebrate it.

At least 14 States and 33 cities have already proclaimed January 15th as "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day." The schools are closed in at least 21 cities including Baltimore.

Thousands of other schools and communities observe the holiday.

Unions have a day off with pay in their contracts. Business and stores close or take time off to pay suitable tribute to Dr. King.

AFRO offices in all cities will operate with skeleton crews so that most employees may observe the holiday.

Most of the present national holidays glorify past wars and their generals, or have become too commercial and meaningless.

A national holiday honoring Dr. King would honor all black people.

It would honor peace.

It would honor justice and freedom.

It would honor brotherhood.

It would honor the rights of all men.

These are the values Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for.

These are the ideals for which he gave his life.

It is not too much to call upon Congress to follow the leadership of the people; as once again on January 15th the people honor one of history's truly great leaders.

In a special statement to the AFRO this week, Mrs. Martin Luther King correctly reminds her fellow Americans

If the deepest tragedy in the loss of Martin Luther King was that his work was unfinished, the greatest inspiration in his legacy can be found in his own words: "The arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

January 15th is a day in which black people justifiably take special pride. But let us remember also that the life and leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr., transcends race, creed and nation. Let us resolve on his birthday to re-dedicate ourselves to his quest.

Every time a single person grasps what he stood for, and makes a commitment to his movement .. every time any individual anywhere takes a position against human suffering and injustice .. the ideals and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. will be vindicated and strengthened.

U. Of Md. Athletes

AFRO readers have every right to be proud of the progress of young blacks in University of Maryland athletics.

It is extremely gratifying, for example, to watch the basketball program flourish with the likes of Len Elmore, Howard White, et al.

Much satisfaction is felt in the knowledge that the Terrapins are rated the second best college team in the nation — outpolled only by mighty UCLA — largely because of the presence of seven black standouts on the roster.

But ....

All these prideful achievements have to be sobered by the facts of life. And the facts of life are these:

Once their usefulness as players is expended, Elmore, White, Owen and Darrell Brown and their black counterparts have less than an even chance of expecting after-college help from Maryland such as can be counted upon by their white teammates of considerably less ability.

Major universities such as Maryland make available a firm educational foundation, but if jobs are to be had by their black athletes after graduation, these jobs more often than not have to be sought in other fields. There is next to nothing for them in collegiate athletics or physical education.

It is true that Maryland has employed two blacks as assistant coaches in recent years, but neither was a product of the College Park campus. Both, in fact, were graduates of Villanova.

So, what of the University of Maryland's "forgotten alumni?"

The larger schools are reluctant to hire the Elmores and Browns for reasons which persist despite high-sounding pronouncements of equal opportunity.

And the predominantly-black colleges are similarly hesitant, and with good reason. They feel they cannot justify their own programs if they imply that the men they graduate are not adequately prepared to hold jobs at their institutions.

It all adds up to a sort of limbo existence for these young men, which we shouldn't forget the next time we root for Maryland to beat Virginia, and South Carolina, and Mississippi, and Georgia.

Tips to New Police

"Racism is with us because all of us were born into a racist society where we learn early to distrust our fellow-man of a different ethnic or religious background.

"Christ's teachings of two thousand years ago, to "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself" continues to fall on deaf ears and blind eyes.

"It is not easy to unlearn prejudices of a lifetime, but you cannot be good police personnel unless you can learn to separate your personal prejudices from your professional duties of objectivity. Maintaining a position of firmness, but fairness, is what is required." The words are those of Baltimore City State's Attorney Milton B. Allen when he addressed a group of police graduates last week.

His entire speech—objective and frank — concerned itself with real problems facing law enforcement officers and the public they are sworn to protect.

Of timely interest was this additional advice on force:

"If you're squeamish and find it difficult to use enough force to effect a proper arrest, you'll have difficulty.

"On the other hand, if you've got something deep inside you that makes you want to use excessive force, then, again, you're in the wrong business."

Equally appropriate these words:

"You must act on the best and highest considerations, in fairness, with objectivity, and be conservators of the peace and protectors of the public."

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—

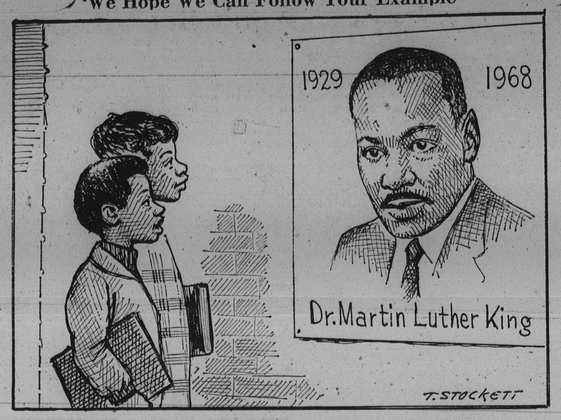
Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured:

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

'We Hope We Can Follow Your Example'



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.

Coppin Yet Alive

Dear AFRO:

This is a response to "An attempt to drive nails in Coppin's coffin," printed in the AFRO December 29, 1972 — An offer of assistance in securing "new pillars and bolts for Coppin's structure" has been erroneously construed as "an attempt to drive nails in Coppin's coffin" by at least one reader of and Contributor to the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Citizens concerned about Coppin State College at least realize that Coppin is yet alive and hence is not in need of a coffin. Concerned Citizens recognize that existing at Coppin is a valuable structure that has stood against great odds for lo these many years.

However, it is also recognizable that "the storms of neglect" over these same years have brought about a weakening to Coppin's structure that must be rectified less the deterioration becomes so great as to terminate into its total demolition.

Two pointed examples of the deterioration which the black community the black state legislators, and the administration, faculty, and student body have allowed at Coppin are:

1. A dramatic increase in the student faculty ratio from one () faculty member per twelve (12) students in 1969 to an intolerable one (1) faculty member per twenty (20) students for the academic year 1972-73.

Coppin's student faculty ratio is the highest in the State College System.

A proper interpretation of this data means that a Coppin student is more likely to have a overcrowded class then, for example, a student at Towson, Frostburg, Salisbury and even Morgan.

The library holdings at Coppin have changed from a status of relative parity with similar size institutions in the state, i.e. Frostburg and Salisbury, in 1964 with 30,000, 40,000 and 37,272 volumes respectively to a deplorable state in 1972 where the total number of items (includes books, periodicals, records, tapes, etc.) in the library of Coppin is only 82,993 as compared with 187,702 for Frostburg and 130,000 for Salisbury. Towson, frostburg, Salisbury and even Morgan. 2. The library holdings at Coppin have changed from a status of relative parity with similar size institutions in the the state, i.e. Frostburg and Salisbury, in 1964 with 30,000, 40,000 and 37,272 volumes respectively to a deplorable state in 1972 where the total number of items (includes books, periodicals, records, tapes, etc.) in the library of Coppin. Four black fire fighters, who are members in "The Vulcan Blazers of Baltimore City," charge through their attorney, Kenneth Johnson, that the Baltimore City Fire Department practices, as policy, discrimination in the hiring and promoting of blacks.

This trial is especially significant for several reasons:

First, aggrieved citizens had the courage to seek a redress of their grievances on their own initiative. Too often, many of us say, "What they are doing to me is wrong, I want 'Charlie' to do something about it. Thanks to Vulcan Blazers for showing that citizens can act on their own behalf.

Second, it is clear that there are discriminatory practices in operation. A glance at statistics will reveal the pattern insofar as hiring practices are concerned.

A spot check of hiring practices since 1953 revealed the following: In 1953, 25 blacks were hired, to 70 whites; in 1959, 24 blacks to 156 whites; in 1966, 12 blacks were hired compared to 54 whites while in 1971 two blacks entered the City Fire Department in comparison to 28 whites.

Third, the trial is important in that a citizens' affirmative action program has been used to support federal government policy. The United States Justice Department has warned three City Fire Departments (Chicago, Los Angeles and Montgomery, Ala.) against racial discrimination in hiring.

Taking a further step, the department has filed suit against the cities of Los Angeles and Montgomery, charging, among other things, that tests, education and height requirements are used to exclude minorities.

Locally, in anticipation of the Jan. 29 trial, the Baltimore City Fire Board president has belatedly ordered non-biased examinations, hoping to improve its position in the case.

Pending the trial, the federal court has forbidden the Baltimore City Fire Department to fill 17 top jobs until the trial is over.

I hope that many of us will be present at the trial on the 29th. I hope we will direct letters of encouragement and thanks to the Vulcan Blazers. I hope that all of us will learn from this experience that there comes the time when we must take a stand, even it it appears that we are going it alone.

Thanks black firefighters for demonstrating courage and commitment.

Firemen Gear

Dear AFRO:

Firefighters were driven back by flames in their efforts to save children in the horrible tragedy on Gwynns Falls Parkway.

We must supply firefighters with protective gear which will enable them to enter heat- and smoke-filled areas to save people, with minimal risk to themselves.

Equipment designed for astronauts, divers, etc. shows we have the know-how.

I'd like to see the AFRO, with its "power of the press" clout, go to work on this important matter.

B. J. SMALL

Soul Brother Aid

Dear AFRO:

The recent tragedy of the Shaw family really brought out the best in our black people. I personally would like to pay tribute to "Soul Brother No. 1," Mr. James Brown, and the employees of his radio station, WEBB. What they made possible was something really unheard of in the black community.

I personally do not like some of Mr. Brown's records. I definitely do not like his politics. But as a man, and an humanitarian he stands tall among men. Hats off to Mr. Brown and his WEBB employees.

RONALD BARNETT JACKSON

(Editor's Note: — Story in Jan. 9, 1973 AFRO told story of how Saturday a.m. fire at 1644 Gwynns Falls claimed lives of four children, ages 17 months to 8 years and injuring 52-year-old grandmother, Mrs. Lillie Shaw, now released from Provident Hospital).

Budding Poet?

Dear AFRO:

Usually I'm good at writing a lengthy letter but all I want to say is this. I like to write poetry. I would like to write something meaningful someday that would have meaning and be meaningful to all people.

I know I have the potential to write but I need guidance. I need inspiration. Thank you for listening to me.

MISS ETHEL CHRISTINE MOODY

(Ed's Note: Submit some samples of your poetry).

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)

A Message

Dear AFRO:

It is now time to practice the Christianity you preach. As the song says, no matter what color every man and woman is your equal brother and sister . . .

Choose between Christ and Satan! Wear your crosses again and choose Christ! Do it today!

You will not know who Christ is; when he comes again, therefore, you must see Christ in everyone you see. God's equation can then be realized: - 1 plus 1 equal 1.

ELISSA WARD JOHNSON

Kudos To Them

Dear AFRO:

As a former resident of the Harlem Park area I wish to commend all those persons involved with the Harlem Park Junior Employment Club. Kudos, especially, to the teenagers.

It is my hope that the residents of the area will make every effort to afford these youngsters an opportunity to include more of their peers in their efforts to become a part of the work force rather than the "dope force."

Janitors, domestics, sanitation workers, postal employees, etc., who provide a much needed service to the public (for little or no pay), are as much, (or more), needed public servants than rock collectors.

The day may come when these persons who are constructively earning funds within their community will be honored by the City Fathers.

Right-On, Harlem Park young adults!

C. R. CURTIS JR.

A little About a LOT

Continuity of black leadership

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

In the dark days after the civil disorders in the black community, some light was shed when the former Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III, as a result of pressure from the Coalition of Civil Rights Organizations, appointed James M. Griffin to the Board of School Commissioners and subsequently increased the number of black members from two to four.

From 1968 to the present, the board has been going through the labor pangs of change and rebirth. The present vice president of that board has been part of that change — a change for the better in the administration of the Baltimore City public schools.

During that time when the board was accused of being a "circus;" when there was racial disorder at Eastern High School; when the revision of social studies curricula in the schools was hotly contested, mainly because blacks were to be included in the mainstream of this country's history (and rightly so); James Monroe Griffin, vice president of the board, helped it to weather the storm, endure the pain and bring about needed change.

—

Now that his term has expired; now that Mayor William D. Schaefer is being coy about re-appointments; now that lobbying groups are asking for new methods of choosing members for the board; it will behoove the black community to marshal its forces around Jim Griffin to insure that he be reappointed to the Board of School Commissioners.

We must not forget that during the last four years, it was Jim who caught the flak from the racist white community; who guided the board into selecting our first black school superintendent, Dr. Roland N. Patterson; and who stood firm in his conviction that the Baltimore City school system must reflect the needs of the black community.

The black community has a responsibility, therefore, to shake off its apathy about an appointment which not only will inure to the benefit of blacks but also to the benefit of the total community of Baltimore.

It must pressure Mayor Schaefer to re-appoint James Monroe Griffin, Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss and make an additional black appointment, Mrs. Marion Banfield.

—

We comprise half of the population and more than half of the school population in Baltimore; therefore, we should also comprise a majority of the school board.

T. George Harris says in the 1973 Britannica Book of the Year:

"The aspirations of black Americans have constantly set the pattern for the dominant whites.

"In their fight to break out of institutionalized racism, blacks have forced a conscious re-examination of public schools, business practices, the welfare state, IQ tests, manners, family relations, higher education, and political parties.

"If the U.S. survives as a vital influence in the world — perhaps once again as a promising model — its major debt will be to its black citizens.

"By proving which institutions have become moribund — something a society seldom learns until too late — they destroyed the complacency of a fat nation and got the repair work started."

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Only in the continuity of black leadership on the Board of School Commissioners, in the persons of James M. Griffin, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Moss, Mrs. Marion Banfield; will we furnish the tools, the prophetic posture which seems to be our birthright, to complete the "repair work" which has only just begun.

How black Baltimore responds to this responsibility, may be illustrative of how it will face the coming elections of '74 and '75.

WASHINGTON REPORT

By PARREN J. MITCHELL
(D-7th District-Maryland)
U.S. House of Representatives

On Jan. 29, 1973, a trial of major importance will take place in the Federal Court, Old Post Office Building in Baltimore. Four black

East - West Expressway Won't Benefit Us

Dear AFRO:

I was appalled at the lack of AFRO coverage of the 1-70 ON corridor location hearing held December 14, 1972, through December 17, 1972 at Edmondson High School.

Inasmuch as the East-West Expressway through west Baltimore would be very destructive and costly to the black community, your silence seems to belie "What The AFRO Stands For."

As you know, the roads would serve primarily to help county residents get in and out of the city as quickly as possible.

Even more surprising is the fact that our black elected officials have not spoken out against the freeway system planned for Baltimore.

Surely they know that more freeways and parking lots will destroy neighborhoods and reduce the city's tax base.

Do they think that the county residents, who will be the most frequent users of the highway, will help pay for its maintenance or pay a city income tax on what they earn in what is left of the city?

It appears to me that most of our black politicians are supporting the Greater Baltimore Committee most whom lived outside of the city, rather than protect the interest of their constituency.

I wonder when we black voters will become wise enough to vote for politicians who have our interest at heart.

In addition to destroying neighborhoods and parks the expressway will cost the city money that is urgently needed for other city needs.

Don't our black leaders know that their are more efficient means of transporting people than the endless building of destructive super highways through the city?

Don't they know that no city has successfully built enough highways to satisfy suburban commuters?

During the past two years, several cities (Arlington, Va., Boston, Mass., New Orleans, La., San Antonio, Tex., and Washington, D.C.), have followed the enlightened example of San Francisco and stopped the freeways at the city limits.

This cannot happen in Baltimore when the most adversely affected segment of the taxpayers (blacks) offer the least opposition, and that segment's leadership is either sadly uninformed or their loyalties are extremely cheap.

According to Robert Embry, Commissioner of Housing and Community Development, the city does not have enough space to build adequate low income housing for Baltimoreans.

So where will our poor and black residents go if they are pushed out of their present homes to make room for freeways and parking lots?

Will they be welcome in the county?

The roads are planned primarily for the benefit of countians, you know.

Will low income housing be included in the new Cold Spring City which is intended to lure county residents back to the city?

The Transportation Department of Maryland has not shown that we, the taxpayers of Baltimore, need any more expressways than we already have. If the city is to be spared the destruction of continuous highway building, there must be significant community opposition.

The AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper is essential to mounting such opposition as well as for keeping the people informed.

I believe the satirical statements below clearly indicate who will benefit from the proposed freeway system:

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Benefits for blacks from Baltimore's 3-A superhighway system: Blacks who own banks will make money as road funds go through their banks;

Black politicians who favor the road will receive large campaign contributions from the road builders;

Blacks who own land in the counties will find it more valuable after the interstate road goes by it;

Blacks who own large construction companies can bid on multi-million dollar contracts;

Blacks will be able to obtain construction jobs such as superintendent, foreman, machine operator, concrete finisher and laborer.

Black-owned building supply companies can bid for contracts supply steel and concrete for the roads.

Blacks will be able to move to the counties, then speed back into the central business district on the superhighways to tend their well-paid city jobs.

NOTE: To obtain the true significance of the above statements, re-read them, substituting "white" for "black."

CHESTER W. WASHINGTON

PAGE OPPOSITE

NOW and THEN

What's Next After Nixon's Inauguration

By G. JAMES FLEMING

DR. FLEMING

In another week the United States will inaugurate Richard Milhaus Nixon for a second and final 4-year term as President.

—

The only restraint on the incoming Nixon regime may be the fact that it will be "lame-duck" in nature with Congress having the opportunity to counter-balance its thrust — if the earlier stated fears and speculations are correct.

But, this column does not expect much challenge from the Congress, except in respect to the continued war in Vietnam.

Only some Democrats and a few Republicans will "stand up" to the President and his front men; because a substantial number of Democrats are still "shaking in their boots" over the party's recent presidential defeat.

These frightened Democrats will not fight the Nixon power machine, because they are inclined to believe that following the President is pleasing to the largest number of American voters. They cannot forget the 61 per cent "landslide" vote received by the candidate of the minority party.

Southern Democrats and Republicans may be expected to support the man they did so much to return as Chief Executive.

But, miracles can happen. Congress may stiffen its back.

MANDEL AND LEGISLATURE — Closer to home, Maryland's General Assembly has just convened its 1973 session, with Governor Marvin Mandel, firm leader of the overwhelmingly Democratic body.

What to expect?

Will Governor Mandel throw his weight behind liberal legislation, specifically legislation beneficial to the masses of black Marylanders who are still at the bottom of all the good things of life?

Will he continue giving strength to those who are fighting court-directed school busing in Prince George's County?

Will he turn the clock back in proposing that the state return to capital punishment for some offenses?

Will he, or will he not, name more blacks to high and pivotal positions in the public service? (At this writing, for instance, we are chagrined that no black person has been appointed to the top-rung of the embryo lottery operation).

Everything in Annapolis is not up to Governor Mandel, however. What can we expect from the men and women we have elected to the legislature?

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LANIER AND CLEMENTE — It is good to be reminded that politics, nor war, nor big-money professional sports can keep young men from being warmhearted and dedicated to their fellowmen in non-headline-making ways.

With this prelude we salute Willie Lanier, recently named NFL "Man of the Year" for his work against drug abuse and cancer, and we honor the memory of Roberto Clemente who gave his life as he personally led a relief team to the aid of Nicaragua's earthquake sufferers.

If you are an anti-Nixonite you will not call the ceremonies an "inauguration," but a "coronation." Whatever term used, however, all of us are bound to wonder or to speculate on, "What to expect?" — that is, what to expect from 1973-77.

The President may continue to be the Nixon that the world has known from 1969 through 1972. Or, he may choose to re-tool and be a "new Nixon."

Several writers, here and abroad, say that he will be set on achieving a respectable place in history and, therefore, will turn his back on the "old Nixon" — more or less.

These writers suspect he will be more liberal, especially in his domestic policies and programs, including his position on black Americans.

Others, viewers-with-alarm, see no re-tooling. They point to the changes in the President's higher echelon and his cabinet and to the changes not made. Some ask "Can a leopard change his spots?"

Among the changes noted is the placement of Caspar W. Weinberger, a finance expert, to head the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and to assume the new powers of counselor for "human resources."

Mr. Weinberger will be responsible for all departments and programs having to do with health, education, manpower development, income security, social services, drug abuse, consumer protection and Indian and native peoples.

These are all programs touching on the lives of the masses of people, especially, the poor and minority groups.

—

What to expect of this super agency with the Weinberger imprint?

Officials around Washington believe that HEW will become a book-balancing, budget-cutting operation; more bent on squeezing welfare and other such payments than on giving the needy what they really require.

This is the only way, it is said, to explain, removing Elliott Richardson from Secretary of HEW and replacing him with a man whose long suite is not social services.

Two other cabinet secretaries will be White House counselors: James T. Lynn (Housing and Urban Development), who will be responsible for all programs relating to community development, and Dr. Earl T. Butz (Agriculture), who will be responsible for all programs having to do with natural resources.

It is to Weinberger, however, that eyes are turned for a clue as to what the Nixon domestic emphasis will be during the next four years.

The President, during his next term, may also be expected to, not only tighten administration, but also to use administrative devices for enforcing his brand of morals and his "work ethic."

A Column of CHOICE

Let's Talk About Our Schools

MRS. BANFIELD

By MARION BANFIELD

When Dr. Scott of the Board of School Commissioners recently spoke about the need to solve our discipline problems as one means of preventing a further exodus of white students, he said what many don't want to hear.

He spoke frankly about the racism which is a part of American public schools.

In schools where whites are in the majority, black students are in danger of being harassed, ignored, and downgraded.

When black students outnumber white students, the black students reverse some of the relationships — black students harass white students.

In their resentment and envy of frequent scholastic superiority of white students, too many black students romanticize ghetto poverty and ignorance and reject scholastic excellence as a way of life.

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Because no major religion has totally accepted the brotherhood of man, our young people are confused as to how much acceptance there is to be of students of another race.

It is as difficult for a black student to invite a white student to a party as it is for a white student to invite a black friend.

Parental fears of inter-racial dating, particularly white parents, is the major reason for adult resistance to true acceptance of human value.

Then too, thousands of the hating, as well as the caring whites really don't believe that black children can learn as well as white children. These whites therefore dread an influx of black students.

They believe that black students are less interested in learning and therefore lower scholastic standards.

—

One factor remains historically true. Whites will not tolerate a ratio of less than 60 whites to 40 blacks.

When black students get beyond 40 per cent whites leave the whole school to blacks.

Black students outnumber white students in Baltimore so there can be no racial balance throughout the system.

Black parents need to recognize the need for white power money to pay for teachers and supplies. The black population cannot give the money necessary for the education needed for 1980 effectiveness.

In other words, black and white students are needed in Baltimore public schools.

—

Just so that we don't kid ourselves into a pure racial pollution we'd better face another fact.

Our black students who are serious about learning and don't want to waste energy with fighting, seek schools that are racially mixed.

Black parents are seeking private school education for college-oriented children.

Like I keep on saying — we need to sit together and talk about our schools.

One choice is to talk together about what we expect from public schools. That will take a series of meetings with parents, teachers, students and the public.

Another choice is for the Department of Education to foster a crusade for student excellence. This is no idle dream.

The Department has enough staff with skill, dedication and sophistication to crusade for excellence.

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

When the new year came in this writer did it. Now, 12 days later, it's hard to believe it could be done.

How was it possible to stop smoking? Just did, but we didn't hide the cigarettes. Some are still in bag, purse and coat pocket.

But the cigarette trays are gone from desk although I am not annoyed if you smoke. That is the way it is this week.

Last week, it was a living hell . . . eating candy, chewing gum were no substitute, for the ye ole cigarette.

—

What helped was when friends called to see how I was "making out," I was given extra impetus.

Some had laughed when I merrily announced at the eleventh hour, 'here is my last cigarette. They were surprised I'd kept my word, and-or had the strength.

'We're so proud,' said one who had a hard time breaking the habit two years ago.

Another friend called to ask, 'how you're doing?' and when I replied I had not even sneaked a puff, she was sending along a special bracelet I admired.

And around home . . . I'm getting the kind of treatment ladies receive when they're expecting the first baby. Everybody is proud as punch that mom has given up smoking.

—

This personal comment about our new no-smoking stature is occasioned by an announcement in the mail this week.

It's from City Health Commissioner, Dr. Robert Farber who advises Jan. 7-13 is 'National Education Week on Smoking.'

The city's chief health officer explains this week was selected "because January 11 marks the ninth anniversary of the Surgeon General's smoking and health report that initially sent shock waves through the smoking population."

Says Dr. Farber: the theme during the week is to emphasize the five actions individuals can take to avoid or lessen the risk associated with smoking.

1. Choose cigarettes with less tar and nicotine
2. Smoke less

MRS. MOSS

3. Respect the rights of non-smokers
4. Help young people not to start
5. Find a way to quit now.

—

The National Interagency Council on Smoking and Health, an organization of 34 voluntary and government agencies to combat smoking, has reported that the evidence continues to pour in that smoking is a cause of coronary heart disease, lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and other diseases.

More than 90 per cent of the medical profession accept these findings. Also noted were the following:

1. 300,000 persons die prematurely in the United States from the effects of smoking.

2. Pregnant women who smoke have more stillbirths, spontaneous abortions and smaller babies than non-smoking women.

3. Non-smokers as well as smokers inhale harmful levels of carbon monoxide by breathing air in smoke-filled rooms.

4. Recent continuing studies show that while the number of teenage boys who smoke has not increases appreciably, smoking among teenage girls is on the upswing. In 1968, the proportion of girls reporting that they smoked regularly was only about one-half that of the boys.

By 1972 there was little difference in daily smoking rates of boys and girls aged 12-17. Among 18 year olds, the girl's rate was about three-fourths that of the boys.

In Baltimore City the trend in lung cancer deaths is upward. The 1972 deaths totaled 494. This may be compared with 487 in 1971, 322 in 1961, 195 in 1951 and 45 in 1931. Of those who died last year, 403 were male and 91 female. Fifteen were under 45 years old.

Any person or group desiring free literature on smoking and health may call the City Health Department's Bureau of Health Information, 752-2000, extension 843. Free loan films are also available for school or community groups.

Couldn't happen to a nicer fellow-the testimonial that is, which is in the planning for Clifton S. Murray, retired school principal.

Event is set for Holiday Inn (downtown) February 25, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Reservations at — $10.00 per person should be made before Feb. 2, to Mrs. Mrs. Eunice Stephens, Rosedale, Elementary School No. 148, Rosedale and Westwood Avenues (21216)

Clothes Note: Area "D" D.O.C.C. Model Cities has available to the community many usable items of clothing. This clothing can be obtained from the council office any day, Monday thur Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office is located at 1542 Clifton Avenue, telephone 523-0629.

Afro Line

AFRO LINE IS AN AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the Action can be found.

IN ISRAEL—Mr. and Mrs. William Adams, left, with Governor Mandel.

Photo answers query to accompanying AFRO Line column.

QUESTION: I am the parent of a retarded child who now resides at the Foxleigh Developmental Center, Garrison, Md.

Foxleigh has threatened to close its facility to retarded children because it is functioning at a substantial financial loss.

The reason for this loss is that the State Mental Retardation Administration has failed to keep its agreement with Foxleigh to place a minimum of 62 children in its facility and it now has only 52.

The state owes Foxleigh approximately $51,000, and the pediatrician there has received less than $200 for his services during the past three months.

My home is not equipped to keep my profoundly retarded child there.

Because we are paying $22 a day for her care at Foxleigh, we're not eligible for state assistance.

There must be an answer to this problem.

All 52 families of the children living at Foxleigh are united in an effort to keep Foxleigh open and functioning.

Please help us! Mrs. B.M.P.

ANSWER: John Parks, administrator at Foxleigh, told AFRO LINE: "All monies owed us are now caught up.

"The rest of the problem will be resolved quickly, so that Foxleigh will remain open in the future.

"In addition, we're working right now on increasing the number of retarded children in residence here from the present 52 to 62."

QUESTION: I have not received my Social Security check for my children from their father's benefits.

I haven't received my Dec. 3, 1972 check or the one for Jan. 3, 1973.

I have written to Social Security and have been down to the office but they won't give me an answer.

Please try to find out why children can't get the benefits that are due them. MRS. B.H.

ANSWER: Mrs. McCoy, of the Social Security office on Calvert St. told AFRO LINE "Everything she says is true, but our computer shows that her checks did go out.

"They must've been stolen, and we've turned the whole thing over to the Treasury Department in Washington to determine what action should be taken.

"It will take some time because they'll have to see if Mrs. H. or someone else cashed the check, and then decide whether to issue her a duplicate check or send the Secret Service in to investigate."

QUESTION — I retire next month and will be eligible to receive the retirement income credit. Will Internal Revenue compute it for me? — J.R.

ANSWER: Yes. If you elect to have the IRS compute your tax and you have a retirement income credit, the IRS will also compute this for you. Just follow the directions in your tax form instructions.