"I am a man of peace; God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."

Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

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)

Thoughts on New Year

No itemized categorization is required; 1974, despite some welcome news here and there, was a year of disturbing events.

Frankly, it's a bit tough to be optimistic about the New Year.

But we dare not be pessimistic. Men of faith do not have to see great things happening in order to be hopeful about prospects for improvements.

So much of the world depends upon how the United States overcomes its problems that it is essential we not be so discouraged as to lessen the chances of a brighter 1975. Pessimism can be catching.

While we cannot overlook the factors that suggest 1975 will not be an easy year with booming economies and no tensions among nations, there has been enough substantial goodwill developed in recent years for us to be optimistic about the long-range future.

With that assuring thought, it may be possible to engender more steam in several areas where action is needed to get things moving forward again. There is no time this season for empty resolutions.

The ones we make should be carefully thought out—then carried through.

Unless we are blessed with that kind of dedicated resolve during 1974 we should enter 1976 with emotions as mixed as those shared by many as 1974 bows out.

Scott's best idea yet

After his committee-of-one hearings into violence in the schools, board member W. Eugene Scott has come up with an idea worthy of note and early action.

The research physicist from Johns Hopkins University has announced that unless the board approves measures he will recommend for stopping violence in the schools, he will resign from the Board of School Commissioners.

Because it is doubtful Commissioner Scott came up with anything worthy of board approval, the sooner he outlines his proposals and puts them before the board the better.

If Commissioner Scott has grasped any one message in his short tenure on the board it is that "too many black youngsters in this city are still, educationally, being ripped off."

The problem for Commissioner Scott, and others like him, is that he prefers simple-minded solutions to rather complicated problems.

One example is his support of board chairman John Walton's sick idea about dumping troublemakers into detention-type institutions where, according to Dr. Walton, "what happens to them afterwards is the society's problems."

What standards would be used to boot out the next group of students? Would it eventually lead to poor kids, or those from broken homes or those who speak out in favor of school desegregation?

If the Walton-Scott detention idea was such a bright one, it is extremely doubtful that the discovery of it would have been left to two such unlikely education experts.

Disturbingly, their proposals come about the same time an 18-month study by The Children's Defense Fund shows an alarming number of pupils being pushed out of schools. It is interesting to note that in Maryland where black pupils make up just 25 per cent of the total enrollment, they are suspended almost three times as often as are whites.

At first there was little reason to expect anything at all from Commissioner Scott's hearings. That was such a foregone conclusion that the other three members of his committee didn't bother to accompany him. "I don't believe in committees anyway," Scott glossed over that.

Maybe that's one of the reasons why he has informed Mayor Schaefer he would not want to be board chairman. The board has committees. Such an elevation, Commissioner Scott says, "would only cause further educational disruption in this city."

That latter recognition and his offer to resign if he can't have his way on a troublesome problem forces a concession to Commissioner Scott—he apparently is gaining a new appreciation of his ineffectiveness as a board member.

Mitchell on Rocky

The AFRO has said earlier this week that it expects that Vice President Nelson Rockefeller will prove to be one of the nation's most effective veeps.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D.-Md., one of the House minority to vote against confirmation, cited a number of concerns that trouble many citizens.

Rep. Mitchell is disturbed that the mixture of great economic and political power bodes ill for the country.

He worries about the gifts given public officials.

—He is unhappy about money put into a book to smear a political opponent. He recalls Rockefeller's role in the Attica massacre, his "get tough on welfare recipients" posture and his support of anti-drug legislation "which was violative of civil liberties."

These are not just imagined concerns and it is understandable that a sensitive, dedicated public servant like Rep. Mitchell would vote his conscience and stand against Rockefeller's nomination.

But one of the things we like about Mitchell that often is not exhibited in other politicians, is that while voting against Rockefeller, Mitchell makes it clear he will support and cooperate with the new vice president.

Mitchell is correct in observing that "these are troubled, chaotic times," when we "need strong and effective leadership in our highest elective offices.

We think Rockefeller will provide that kind of leadership and are pleased to know that Rep. Mitchell, despite his negative vote on confirmation, will be supporting the veep whenever he can.

Ambassador Britton

Theodore R. Britton Jr. has been nominated as ambassador to Barbados and Grenada by President Gerald R. Ford.

As President Ford's first high level appointment of a black American, Mr. Britton will succeed the retiring Ms. Eileen R. Donovan who has held the post since 1969.

We congratulate Mr. Britton, and wish him well. At the same time, we give a pat on the back to President Ford. We hope he has seen the light and will follow this nomination with others of equal or higher stature, particularly in the field of domestic affairs.

As for Mr. Britton he is well qualified for the post. A 48-year-old real estate specialist, he has been deputy assistant secretary of the Department of Housing and Development. When confirmed by the Senate, he will also serve as accredited representative to the Associated States of the West Indies — Antigua Dominica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

At HUD, he was intimately involved in all phases of HUD's research activity with particular responsibility for foreign research in 1971 - 73. He has held seminars and lectures on housing and environmental matters throughout the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Africa for HUD, the United Nations, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Information Agency, and thus is, in fact, an international specialist.

He knows the area to which he will go, and will make an excellent American representative in government affairs. Mr. Ford has made a good choice.

Thoughts of the Founder

"At the top of the brand clean page that Father time turns over, write in flaming letters for the coming year this prayer: — NOT LESS TRIALS LORD, BUT GREATER STRENGTH TO BEAR THEM."

— January 1, 1916

J. H. Murphy

'I pray you will do better'

Washington ____ by Parren J. Mitchell

New housing efforts seen helping Baltimore residents

(Editor's note: Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's Seventh District in the U.S. House of Representatives. His office is at 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, TEL.: 202-225-4741.

Although I think that Robert Embry, Baltimore's Commissioner for the Department of Housing and Community Development, is doing the best job of anyone in the housing field in the country, I have, from time to time, been very critical of the implications of some of the housing programs.

In a recent speech in Atlanta, I voiced criticisms about some of the housing efforts.

Commissioner Embry wrote me in response to my speech and provided the following information which I am happy to pass on to you:

The 312 Loan Program in Baltimore is at an 8 per cent interest rate and is a direct Federal loan with a maximum of $17,000 on the amount which can be lent per unit. According to the information provided by Mr. Embry, one third of the loans made in Baltimore are to black citizens.

Those people who are homeowners and too poor to pay back a loan are given a federal grant up to $3,500.

These need not be paid back. Almost every grant has been made to a black citizen.

About 80 houses have been awarded under the homestead program. Again, one third of the recipients are black. This should be compared with the 150 vacant houses rehabilitated by the city for low income families to rent, almost all of whom are black.

Like many others, I have had grave reservations about the income levels of those who will get housing in the inner harbor areas.

Commissioner Embry advises that the minimum income eligibility level for housing in the inner harbor is $3,500 with a maximum of $7,155 in the only apartments constructed — Christ Church Home for the Elderly — with an average rent of $127.70 per month.

In Inner Harbor West, the eligibility in today's dollars will be an annual income of $6,000, not $18,000.

This information is most helpful and if the pattern as outlined by Commissioner Embry continues all that I can say is, "right on Commissioner."

I am reasonably sure that most black elected officials have deep concerns about the implications of housing efforts because of many bitter prior experiences.

To name but a few such experiences, think of the wholesale displacement of black citizens in Southwest Washington to make way for the Watergate complex; think of the wholesale displacement of black citizens to make way for expressways through cities;

And, think of the cities in which black residents have been relocated to make room for luxury high rise apartments.

Let us hope and believe that the days of such exploitation of black people in housing are now numbered.

Now and then ____ by G. James Fleming

Thoughts for the new 1975

There are two ways to face 1975: (1) To mourn over the fears that the New Year will be even worse than 1974 or 1973, or,

(2) To hope for the best, feeling that 1975 just can not be worse and may even take a turn for the better.

There just can not be anything worse than the depths to which Watergate has taken us, as a nation, in spirit, and in its revelation of how near we all escaped a police state.

On the other hand, while we may have rescued the country, constitutionally, we may find ourselves, in 1975, in a dark, deep depression. Certainly, not a happy thought.

We can all only hope that, by some miracle, our Wise Men will find the formula to thwart a real depression; yea, to bring such recession as exists, to a halt, and to replace it with an upward swing of the economy.

But, it will take wisdom, courage and unselfishness, and we can only keep our fingers crossed.

Yet, man can not be fun ereal. He must continue to hope and pray for the better and the best.

While there are many goals that are beyond the reach of the individual, there are many other objectives that can be achieved with the strength and intelligence possessed by mere humans.

So, if I could have my wishes fulfilled, or if I were a magician or a god, I would

1. I would cause industrialists and economists to put the public good beyond all else and dare to come up with a formula that will provide jobs for those able and willing to work; that will feed the hungry; and that will house the underhoused.

2. I would cause politicians to have a new light and insight into what they should do, and how they "should operate," in order to throw their weight on the side of international peace and domestic prosperity.

3. I would cause the rank and file of Americans to gear themselves for a new level of living, where the upper and middle classes may have less and the poorest classes, especially the poorest children, will have more.

4. I would cause the giants of labor and industry, unitedly, to decide to freeze, or roll back, their demands, for more and more increased hourly wages and more and higher profits.

5. I would cause blacks to commit themselves to the proposition that 1975 must find them doing less griping and complaining about what others have done to them and tackle the problems of correcting their weaknesses, utilizing their strengths, pulling together and resolving to stand on their own bottoms, to the highest degree possible.

6. For students, in high school and college, I would wish that those in high school would put first things first: Hitting the books, developing a love for reading, trying the hard subjects; turning off the boisterous electronics in order to study; accepting the truism that no one achieves skill or power by taking the easy road or by just "hanging around."

These are some of the thoughs of this column as it looks ahead to next year — not excluding, however, best wishes for good health, prosperity, joy, challenge and brotherhood to all of our readers, Happy New Year.

How A.D. era originated

The notation A.D. (from the Latin Anno Domini — in the year of our Lord) was started by Charles III. of Germany, who affixed it to the years of his reign in 879.

The Christian era begins on January 1st in the middle of the 4th year of the 194th Olympiad, the 753d year of the building of Rome, and in 4714 of the Julian period.

The era, and its system of dating the years preceeding the birth of Christ and dedicating the succeeding years to His greater Glory, was invented about 532 by a monk, Dionysius Extinguius — sometimes called Denys le Petit.

Introduced in Italy during the sixth century, the system was not extensively employed until its use was prescribed for bishops by the Council of Chelsea (Middlesex, England) in 816 and made its debut in world affairs under the sponsorship of Charles III.

Time for debts

An ancient Chinese tradition demands that all bills be paid on New Year's Eve: anyone who is a debtor on New Year's Day is considered, and considers himself, very much disgraced.

Counting-houses him with activity long after midnight and tradespeople, shielding lighted candles, hurry through the dark streets of residential districts stopping at his door and that door to settle accounts with their customers.

Traditionally, creditors are entitled to their money only so long as their candles remain lighted.

Human nature being what it is, we can imagine debtors and creditors have thought of an ingenious way of accidentally extinguishing those candles or keeping them from being extinguished.

A little about a lot ____ by Madeline W. Murphy

Children are God's blessing

With five grandchildren in the house at Christmas, you return to the simplicity of children's excitement. The excitement of trimming a tree and Santa Claus, (although I think they "con" US into believing they believe, on the slender thread that if they don't, no presents will appear under the tree!)

Stringing cranberries and popcorn to decorate the outside tree, so that the birds will have a Christmas, arranging a way to blink the lights at will from inside, brought to mind a feeling I hold about children and Christmas time.

For don't you believe that children are God's blessing, a surety that life will be everlasting, if not in you in them?

They receive a hope that freedom and salvation will some day be real. And each year as you see them progress, as we retire to be but reflections of their glory, we can rest assured, that some way, some how, with their God-given strength, they shall endure and endure and endure.

In addition, it is also heartwarming that the college kids in the family, whose money hasn't held out for "boughten" gifts have the ingenuity to make tokens of their love and thoughtfulness, which is really a special expression of Christmas, that causes you to look, not so much at the gift but the giver, with new eyes and appreciation.

And of course, God bless the husband who helps out with nine pairs of feet under the table for a week, buttoning little coats, tying shoe strings that have mangled ends, sternly making them join the "clean-plate-club."

It is in times of stress — what they call "double-digit inflation" — like these, that we remember, how once we made it by "making do, with what we had," that we can do it again, and thank God, our kids have learned it too.

So with a new year coming we can all refuel, rev-up and use those unlimited recourses, that have never really left us since the days of slavery. And so in "making do," we shall reinforce the will and ability to survive, prevail and thrive.

Happy New Year!

A column of choice ____ by Marion Banfield

We each have power to bring about change

At the 125th anniversary party of Family and Children's Society, Mayor Schaefer's Christmas wish was that all citizens of Baltimore city would like each other regardless of race or any other circumstance.

I immediately thought of the many meetings of neighborhood groups, of school faculties, of ethnic groups where focus of attention was basically how very much they disliked others.

If we stop to really think, we can each recall a stupid, self-defeating decision we have made because we acted against a person or persons we disliked.

In times of much confusion and feeling of powerlessness it is so very easy to focus anger against a person or group.

That rids you of responsibility for your plight, saves you the trouble of intellectual searching for root causes.

It's more exciting to dislike than to spend hours objectively seeking relationship of facts.

Yet, this season of sending cards, wishing each other joy and peace, this may be just the time to take that "peace" seriously.

Our choice is to consciously seek to make inner peace within ourselves by trying to understand and accept our virtues and our faults.

Having done this, then we can give that much recognition for being human to those whom we consider a plague to our inner peace.

Our choice is to recognize that peace among us begins with the personal responsibility to make a consistent effort to like the human beings with whom we must share the coming year.

Our choice, as citizens of this city, is to be part of a belief that we each have the power and responsibility to bring about change for a more humane community starting with our daily contacts.

81 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.)

AFRO credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

•Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

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

•Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

•Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

(December 24, 1920)

(From the Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

The AFRO stands for

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

Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.

Extensive and meaningful black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Ode to a friend

It is never, ever easy
When a person's lost his will
And the greatest pressure seizures
Say to him, "You'll make it, still"

Often you are made to wonder
And you ask yourself, "Why me?"
"Am I paying for a blunder
Will the light I ever see?"

If your experiences required confessions
Of which choice would you prefer
Lose Now all Present possessions
Then you'll know how Rich you were.

Loretta L. Tazwell
(C) 1974.)

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

AFRO readers RAP

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address to "AFRO Readers Rap," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

It's not the answer

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter in regard to those concerned with the vast growth of juvenile crime and feel that imprisonment is the answer.

I would like to share with them and you a life that few outsiders know about — an existence which many would rather keep secret. The life I'm writing about is the private despair-ridden world of men behind bars (prisoners). The correctional system is constantly without mercy, ruining lives both mentally and physically, instead of (so-called) rehabilitating prisoners.

The gap that extends between the word rehabilitation and its true meaning is infinite.

Prisoners in every institution have long learned that it is merely a word for public consumption and is designed to exploit a person's mind and body.

This form of genocide is being employed and instigated here at the Maryland Correctional Training Center (located in Hagerstown, Md.) as well as every Prison system in this country.

Such places as the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore, which has earned a name anew in the eyes of the inmates (House of the Living Dead), is not meant to be a stage joke, but merely to let the public know just how serious a condition exists behind the walls that shield us from you.

I read a newspaper article concerning an employee at the Maryland Penitentiary being given the authorization for a gun permit.

And here, my dear friends, is her reason for wanting a gun permit: I come in contact and work daily around men, (inmates), of the lowest order. If this is her, (or even yet, society's) opinion of us (inmates), then pray tell what, I ask, are yours?

The members of S.A.N.D., (Seekers of A New Direction), here at the Maryland Correctional Training Center (M.C.T.-C.) are as much concerned as you the public with the on-growing juvenile crimes in Baltimore as well as its neighboring counties.

We are presently drawing up blueprints of ways of assistance in curing this problem. All our ideas and programs will be submitted to the various organizations in the streets that are working in the area of juvenile crimes.

However, we feel that incarceration at this point is not the answer!!!

MARVIN C. ROUNTREE SR,
(Corresponding Secretary of Public Relations Committee, S.A.N.D.)

Thank you

Dear AFRO:

We greatly appreciate the coverage you gave the Information and Referral Service in the AFRO-AMERICAN. We have received a large volume of inquiries as a result, many of whom had never heard of the service or what was available to them through the service.

With the help from individuals like yourself, we will undoubtedly reach a large populace. Thank you for assisting us in reaching out to people in need.

Please feel free to call whenever you need any information in relation to problems your readers pose directly to you.

(Mrs.) JANET MARTIN,
(Information Specialist,
Health and Welcare Council.)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Readers can reach this agency by dialing 685-6525. Office is at 200 E. Lexington St.)

Do your thing

By Enola F. McMillan
(President, Baltimore NAACP)

Due to the current disregard of the life, property and well-being of others in the Baltimore community as evidenced by crime, violence, vandalism, racism by blacks and whites, disrespect of persons, laws and institutions, truancy and drop outs in our schools, poverty and unemployment, etc. the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP herewith issues a call for positive action to replace fear in some, violence in others and apathy in too many.

We know that governmental efficiency depends primarily upon the attitudes and the support or lack of support of the citizens involved.

We know our government is not perfect but that it is flexible enough to permit needed changes as has been evidenced by constitutional revision of the enactment of new laws more liberal interpretations by the courts, and improved christian attitudes of the citizenry.

In fact, the NAACP has played a significant role in these changes. The "establishment" need not be destroyed to effect these changes.

Since we understand the causes of the frustrations and bitterness of our youth and some adults, (having been exposed ourselves to many more than our youth experience now) we believe that while we seek justice and opportunity from our white brothers, we must also focus our efforts on what we can do to help ourselves.

We know, too, that two wrongs never make one right and that hatred is more destructive to the later than to the hated.

Furthermore, we know that people respond adequately to any situation only when they are involved in the analysis and planning as well as in the execution of remedies.

Consequently, the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP, herewith issues a call to every small community to "Do its thing," in making the desired changes in Baltimore by volunteering local leadership and cooperation in our "Positive Action Program."

First, Volunteer to work in your block, in your neighborhood improvement association, in your PTA, in your youth council, in your church, or in your club to help protect and improve your neighborhood.

Secondly, encourage individuals and organizations to contribute financially to maintain a director and staff to help you help yourself. These contributions will be tax deductible.

Stop in, write in or call the NAACP office at 1390 W. North Avenue; Telephone: 523-8503, or 523-8504 or 523-2466.

Let's "DO OUR THING!" REGISTER WITH US TODAY.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Note to reader who signs letter J.B.—your comments about Gwynns Falls School are interesting, but the AFRO does NOT publish unsigned letters. We delete names if readers so request.

Hospital workers

Dear AFRO:

I note news stories about settlement of the strike by hospital workers at Hopkins, Md. General and Greater Baltimore, state that Local 1199E won an $18 a week increase in pay for non-professional workers (nurses' aides, food service and maintenance workers and the life.)

Is this right? Does the new two-year contract actually mean an increase of $18 a week for workers at these hospitals?

—JAMES HILL

(Editor's Note: Union spokesmen advise the AFRO that the workers covered by the contract effective Dec. 1, 1974 make anywhere between $3.05 to $6.10 an hour. The $18 per week increase for the first year and $10 weekly increase the second year means that the minimum for the $3.05 worker will be $3.50 hourly and the $6.10 category, $6.55 an hour the first year. The second year the $3.50 hourly worker moves to $3.75 an hour; and the $6.55 per hour worker to $6.80 an hour. Persons in job categories between the $3.05 and $6.10 received increases in the same proportion. Job classifications vary from hospital to hospital — in some instances there are ten such classifications.)

Fire victims

Dear AFRO:

On November 26, 1974, the home at 1713 N. Durham St. lost part of its interior structure from a terrible fire. Many valuable and sentimental items were totally destroyed. Thankfully, no lives.

The family had lived there pretty close to 15 years and during that time they have made more friends than foes.

After that terrible tragedy, they found just how many friends they really had. Good wishes and many prayers came from all directions, north, east, south and west.

I am a member of that family and I would like to extend many, many thanks from all of us to everyone, everywhere for everything.

(Editor's note: This letter was signed by ANNIE MAE VENABLE, and MRS. ROSETTA BARBER, Anthony, Andre, Arthur, Arnold, Alex, and Augustus.)

I'm ready

"I am done with the years that were, I am quits,
I am done with the dead and the old,
They are mines I worked out, I delved in their pits,
I have saved their grains of gold —
Now I turn to the future for wine and bread —
I have bidden the past adieu —
I laugh, and lift hands to the year ahead,
Come on! I am ready for you!"

—Edwin Markham

Accidents don't take holidays

The holiday season is a time of joy, fun, presents and surprises but the holidays also bring extra hazards . . . more traffic accidents, home fires, falls, accidental poisonings and accidents with toys.

The Farm and Home Safety Bureau of the U. of Md., offers these tips to help readers make sure their holidays are truly happy days:

SAFE DRIVING

1. Be sure your car is holiday safe .... check brakes, lights, wipers, defrosters, exhaust systems, tires, battery and ignition systems.

2. Allow extra time for heavy traffic and slippery roads.

3. Stay alert for the driver who has "over-celebrated."

4. Be courteous—respect the rights of pedestrians and other drivers.

FIRE CHECKS

1. Check your furnace, fireplace, chimney and vent pipes.

2. Be careful with portable heaters.

3. Use approved indoor and outdoor lighting, good cords and plugs and avoid overloading electrical circuits.

4. Remember an 8 ft. pine tree can burn in 27 seconds and create tremendous heat. Keep water in base container and turn lights off when you leave home unattended.

TOY TIPS

1. Select toys to suit the age abilities and temperament of the child.

2. Toys and toy parts should be too large to be swallowed by little ones.

3. Electrical toys should have the Underwriter's Laboratory label.

4. Check all toys to be certain they are non-flammable and have no lead-base paint on them.

PREVENT FALLS

1. Keep outside steps, sidewalks and driveways free of ice and snow.

2. Use the proper ladder in the proper manner for those out of reach decorating jobs.

3. Keep electrical cords and wires away from traffic areas where they could become tripping hazards.

4. Remove toys, paper, boxes, etc. from floor and stairs.

POISONINGS

1. Plants and greens used for decoration may be poisonous; use special care with small children.

2. Finger paints, oil paints and water paints in some kids' paint sets may contain poison.

3. Chemical sets and science kits and games often contain chemicals which may be harmful if ingested.

4. Alcohol and cigarettes frequently in evidence at parties pose real dangers for small children.

And if you're giving a party—remember that over half the automobile accidents during the holidays involve people who have been drinking.

"Close the bar" at least an hour before the end of the party. Offer coffee or soft drinks as the "one for the road." Never let a guest drive away from your party under the influence. Ask someone to drive him home or call a cab.

Don't let an accident mar this wonderful time of year.

Afro Line

AFRO-LINE is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be.

All you have to do is write a post card to AFRO-LINE, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and telephone number.

SPECIAL NOTE: You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections, complain or inquire about AFRO news stories and policies by contacting AFRO-Line by phone or letter.

Weekdays call 728-5200, Extensions 64 or 59, between hours of 9:30 and 4 p.m. and talk in person to AFRO-Line service.

Your report will get prompt attention by top management or the AFRO news department.

Or write, AFRO-Line, P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203 or drop in to see AFRO-Line at 628 N. Eutaw St.

QUESTION: I bought a color TV a year ago from a department store with which I have been dealing for 8 years. I had to take it back a month after I got it, (and I should have left it then) because I have had to take it back twice since then. The last time was in June when I left it.

I think I got a bad TV, and offered to pay more to get another one. The manager says I will have to pay this time because the guarantee has run out. I really don't think this is fair. Is there anything you can do to help me?

— G.F.

ANSWER: Please call Mr. Levin, assistant manager at the store. The manager of the TV department has been trying to contact you. They are going to give you a new set. Let AFRO-Line know how you make out.

QUESTION:—Three weeks ago I was sent by an employment agency to this restaurant in northeast Baltimore. I quit the job after three weeks.

I enjoyed my work very much but the working conditions are almost inhuman. What can be done about this place? — G.F.X.

ANSWER: Your letter detailing arbitrary rules and alleging racial discrimination in wages and fringe benefits, has been referred to the Baltimore City Community Relations Commission. John B. Ferron, the director, has asked that you file a formal complaint. He will be in touch with you. Let AFRO-Line know what happens.

QUESTION: During the sanitation workers' strike last summer, the AFRO printed a section of phone numbers and addresses where one could call to get rid of stray dogs, rodent problems, etc. Could these numbers be contacted even though the strike is over? If so, could they be printed again? —M. A. C.

ANSWER: The numbers appear regularly at the end of this column.

If there are other phone numbers you need, let AFRO-Line know.

QUESTION: During the period before the Nov. 5 General Election, I wrote the Supervisors of Elections and asked for an absentee ballot. I did not get one. I am confined to the Md. Correctional Institution for Women. I understand that I was qualified to vote but I did not get my ballot. How do I get my ballot?

MS. F. G. X.

ANSWER: AFRO Line checked with Supervisors of Elections. Your request for absentee ballot came after the deadline for application. Supervisors of Elections office advises AFRO Line that prison inmates who are not disqualified from voting may vote by absentee ballot if they are registered.

The elections office says a person who is jailed is qualified to vote if the crime does not disqualify him. The fact that one is jailed does not disqualify the voter. The crime is actually what it is.

(Editor's note to writer — books are now open for registration of voters. Next election is Sept. 2, 1975, when the mayor and City Council members seek elections).

In the mailbag: "I just want to say I thank you for taking care of our ashes. The truck came again this week. My ash days are Mondays and Thursdays.— MRS. M. L. J.

WHERE TO CALL FOR HELP

HOT LINE — 235-5151 for abandoned vehicles; dirty yards; garbage collection; street lights, street repair.

POLICE — Emergency, 222-3333; community relations, 396-2716.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-1111; bad food, 396-4424; animal removal, 396-6218; fire, 685-1313; defective sidewalk, 396-3168; rats, 396-4418.

INFORMATION—City Jail, 396-3211; transit and traffic, 396-3649; drug abuse counseling, 383-2720; job, 383-5400; legal aid, 539-5340; rumor control, 837-1188; rape center, 366-RAPE; pension reform bill, 962-3914.

MAYOR'S STATION — Govans, 396-0964; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; Northwest, 396-0924; Steuart Hill, 396-0207.

FOOD STAMPS — 234-2751.

REGISTER TO VOTE—Now is the time to get on the books so you can vote for the next mayor and city council persons to represent YOU. Register to vote now at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts. Office open Mondays through Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Next primary election for mayor and city council is Sept. 2, 1975. Get ready to VOTE now.

If YOU ask me ____ by Bettye Moss

Prayers for the New Year

On Feb. 25, 1968, the first anniversary of the death of Carl Murphy, this writer published an 'In Memoriam.'

It was a booklet of prayers our father had offered at meals and on special occasions. Still available in limited numbers, the 40-page booklet contains some of the hundreds he wrote during his 78 years — the last 45 as head of this newspaper chain.

Usually, this time of the year — especially on New Year's Eve — we get on our knees just before midnight and recite some of these prayers as the New Year comes in.

"This year, for the first time in our lifetime, we depart from that tradition and attend an early-in-the-day church service.

For that reason, we reprint here some of the prayers with the hope readers might care to use them at their family gatherings.

This column wishes all a happy and glorious New Years —

The New Years — We thank Thee, oh Lord, for these days in 1974, for except Thou shalt been with us each hour, each minute, each second of this year, this day, none of us could be here.

In Thy love and guardian care only can we live. We praise Thy name; we give Thee thanks. — AMEN

We thank Thee that we believe that with a new year we shall have a new page on which to write our lives.

Give us constantly a conquering spirit with faith that truth, justice and right shall ultimately triumph no matter what the odds, no matter how disappointing the darkness.

Give us evidence of Thy presence so that holding Thy hand we shall go into the new year together. AMEN.

New New Year? — This is the day which the Lord has sent — a bright day in a New Year. Let us be glad in it.

Our Heavenly Father, send us not only new days in New Years, but another chance to correct our sins, a clearer vision of Thy purposes for all men, and finally, a willingness to search even more diligently for truth and right.

Go with us this day. AMEN.

We thank Thee, Lord, that Thou watchest over us as we go out and as we come in that Thou hast brought us safely through this year and to this moment of prayer and meditation.

Continue to walk with us in all our endeavors so that at the end of them we shall find a sense of achievement, satisfaction and fulfillment. AMEN.

On Fringes: Our Heavenly Father we pray that we shall be able to keep in sight the fringes of our lives.

What is before us we can often see plainly.

What is behind us we can discern through a mirror or through history.

But sometimes we are nearsighted and our eyes are narrowly angled.

So there are parts of us which like garments become soiled and like hems of a skirt drag the earth.

Help us, our Father, to watch out for the fringes of our lives. AMEN.

On talking: God make my words tender and sweet today for I may have to eat them tomorrow. — AMEN.

On excuses: O Lord, the standard exercise for those who fail to get things done on time or who do them improperly is, "I forgot."

No one can go anywhere or do anything worthwhile who constantly forgets. The sacrifice made for him by his family, the dignity and decency he needs himself to maintain the love he needs for others and for his God.

In the rush of the day, the quiet of the evening, in this beginning of a new week, help us to remember. — AMEN.

On closed doors: O, Lord, if ever anyone closes a door upon us, wilt Thou open a window?

If we close a door on anyone, help him to find a window.

close us in completely, That evil will destroy all rights.

We believe that all things in this world work together for good to them who love the Lord.

Help us then to walk over disappointments, fears, hatreds when the doors are closed, and look for the windows of faith and hope and love. AMEN.

On peace: — Our Heavenly Father, we know of the satisfaction that comes when a task is well done.

We know of another kind of restfulness when work is done at day's end.

But with the end of the day and the end of the week comes always this quiet relief from rush and apprehension of what we must do tomorrow. Thou has said, "My peace I give unto you, My peace I leave with you."

It is for this we now pray because it is greater than any of the others. Grant Thy peace to us and to all for whom we should pray. AMEN.

On sharing: — O, Lord, we thank Thee that because of Thy divine intervention so much that is unseemly or evil has passed us by.

We give Thee thanks that with our hand in Thine we have made the rough places smooth and the crooked places plain. Continue to be our guide and bless us with Thy restraints.

And what Thou gives to us help us to share with others. AMEN.

On worries: — We thank Thee O Lord that we stand still for these moments of prayer to hear the message of Advent.

Stop our minds from wandering and our hearts from wanting anything except to know Thy presence and Thy will.

Stop us so that we stand quietly and hear what Thou hast to say to us.

We listen now to hear not only what to do but how to do it and when.

Stop our worries and concern for tomorrow.

For today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday; and by Thy grace we met the tasks that have come with it. — AMEN.

On compassion: — We pray for those who suffer tonight from wind or cold, those who are without adequate food or shelter; without quiet, comfort or friendship or loved ones.

Bless us this day and all for whom we should pray.

May the violence of the elements give us more and more concern for the welfare of others. AMEN.

On weather: — O, Lord, we are grateful for this day — for the passing brightness of the sun that comes to us as we begin this last month of winter — we are glad.

Continue to guide us through the long, dark nights until spring and then summer come again in our gardens, and in our hearts.

Let there be no weather, no climate except that of warmth and light and thanks. AMEN.

For freedom: — Give us strength and persistence so that we shall, by Thy grace, continue to accept no substitute for freedom and equality. AMEN.

On Improvidence: — Our Heavenly Father we pray Thy blessing upon those who are afflicted with the disease of improvidence.

These are they who spend as though the summer will last all year and the drought or the winter wind will not come.

Are they not related to those whose nature compels them to intemperance or excess through drink or tobacco or other stimulants.

So tonight we pray earnestly for those who are shiftless or spendthrift or intoxicated with the sight of their pay envelopes.

Help us to understand human weaknesses, to be tolerant and to be [illegible] AMEN.

On work: — O, Lord, we know that nothing can be achieved without effort which is work and which develops into discipline, then drudgery, then art or skill, and finally achievement.

So that at the end of this day, with our tasks done, we come before Thee with thanks for permitting us to accomplish something, to ask Thy continuing guidance and Thy blessing. AMEN.

On tolerance; — O, Lord, much of what we feel compelled to do is distasteful or disagreeable, sometimes it's over burdensome or even drudgery.

Help us not to be impatient or unkind or disagreeable because we have distasteful things to do.

Give us the tolerance to put ourselves in the place of others and deal with him as we would deal with our own.

Give us wisdom to remember that only when we live in another man's shoes can we feel the nails that crucify him. — AMEN.

On children: — From the time our children are born, until they grow up and marry, and until they have children and see them grow to manhood and womanhood — through all of these years, our children are in our hearts.

Their heartbeats are ours, so are their joys, their sorrows, their disappointments, their expectations.

So, not only for ourselves, but for our children, we go through life deeply concerned of our children's children and even of the great-grandchildren.

No one can bear such burdens unless it is with Thy help.

Therefore make, it possible, for us to set the best example we know how, to give of our kindness and our means as we are able, and then leave the results to Thee. — AMEN.

All our lives: — O, Lord, our lives are so filled with a number of things that we forget Thee until there is a crisis.

But Thou doth not forget us.

So we pray for a daily closer walk with Thee because Thou has promised to lift our burdens, remove our anxieties, make the crooked ways straight and the rough places smooth.

All that we need to do is guide our lives by Thine, and to commit ourselves to Thy care.

Earnestly, we beg that today and tomorrow and forever, we can say "into Thy hands we command our spirits" and may we repeat it not only at the end of our lives, but in the midst of them.

AMEN.

New Year

New Year's Day has been observed for over 500 years and everywhere it is a time of rejoicing. Here in the United States and in parts of the world January 1, is New Year's Day.

But, look at these various dates observed in other lands:

In that part of the Occident wherein the Greek Orthodox faith prevails Jan. 2 falls upon our Jan. 13.

A traditional Chinese New Year's celebration starts Feb. 8 and lasts to Feb. 13.

If you were in Siam on April 1, you'd find a great ceremonial festivity underway — nothing less, in fact, than New Year's.

In Arabia, the Mohammedan New Year's is celebrated September 4.

September 10 is New Year's in the ancient country of Abyssinia.

Jewish people observe the New Year at a different date and with more religious solemnity than is associated with the Christian New Year.

Rosh Hashanah, the name of Jewish New Year's day, may occur anytime between September 5 and October 5.

It is one of the highest of Orthodox holy days and opens a period of penitence, prayer and charity which lasts until Yom Kippur, ten days later. Yom Kippur means Day of Atonement.

Mr. Bumble's prayer

O Lord, be with us, receive and guide us in the new year ahead. Bless us and those for whom we should pray.—AMEN

(Submitted by Mrs. Agnes Jones, Cherry Hill).

Share your favorite prayer with the AFRO's Mr. Bumble, P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203.

FUJI MICRO SAFETY