I am an American, and as an American, I would speak to America . . .
Frederick Douglass· 1817-1895.

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)

A-4 JANUARY 3, 1976

83 happy new years

This issue marks the 83rd time the AFRO-AMERICAN has wished its readers a happy new year.

Since its founding on Aug. 13, 1892, the AFRO has not missed a payroll nor an edition. In this our 84th year of continuous publication, we are proud to have loyal readers who depend on us to see that their liberties are preserved and to support their hopes for a better world.

The end of a year and the beginning of a new one is an appropriate time for inventory — but we dare not waste time talking about the accomplishments and failures of the past unless we pledge to move ahead to improve and correct them.

366 DAYS AHEAD

The 365 days of 1975 are gone — good-bad-and indifferent as they were. We can better spend our efforts looking ahead to 1976 — which gives us 366 days — one extra one — to be about our work.

In this new year, there will be much ado about the Bicentennial, America's 200th birthday celebration. We who have slaved and toiled to make America grow have a right to be proud and join the festivities.

But here again dwelling on the past will not solve our present problems of inadequate housing and recreation, inflation, unemployment, racism, poverty and injustice.

At this inventory time we must recognize the priorities.

AN URGENCY

For Baltimoreans, in particular, there is an urgency to keep behind the city administration led by Mayor William Donald Schaefer, whose present top cabinet posts are held by whites only.

And this in a city which is nearly 55 per cent black!

We must not waver in our demands for involvement in policy-making paying positions which determine the destinies of the city's residents, the majority of whom are black. And we must insist elected councilmen support us or vote them out.

TOO MANY OUT

We can not become satisfied that a few are involved when so many are excluded.

We must understand the removal of a Milton Allen, a Roland Patterson, a Harold Jennifer and a Paul Chester, and the defeat of a Carl Adair and a Norman V. A. Reeves, are but a beginning if we do not wake up and become aroused.

And becoming aroused means less talk and dancing and partying and spending hundreds of dollars to frolic at Mr. Charlie's county ballrooms where few of us work.

WHAT TO DO

It means putting money in a register-to-vote drive, in NAACP memberships and supporting the Welfare Rights League and other groups dedicated to helping the people.

And, it means insisting that our black elected members of the Md. General Assembly live up to their pledge to make the Legislative Black Caucus a viable organization.

The times demand exposing, if they must, those among them who refuse to support their fight for equal job opportunities in state agencies, who fail to join them in their meetings with Gov. Mandel to urge his appointment of black citizens to key positions, including judgeship vacancies in city and state courts.

JOB PICTURE

The proportion of black police officers and patrolmen in Baltimore City is unacceptable. The number of state patrolmen is insufficient. The total force of black fire fighters and officers is unsatisfactory.

Job openings on construction projects financed by city, state and federal funds are woefully inadequate for black people. Labor unions are not doing enough to promote programs to train and hire vocational school students who are black.

There is still racial segregation in our public schools and State colleges.

Millions of dollars are going for restoration of the Inner Harbor, mass transit and highways but the amount to black contractors and employees is insignificant.

"YOU PEOPLE"

Some black people, like some white people, have forgotten their own poor backgrounds. Since they've moved to the suburbs and installed their "wall-to-wall" they've fallen into the 'those people' or 'you people,' bit. But their jobs depend on the masses who are poor, and needy who must seek their help at public agencies so they better drop their snooty ways.

Add to the 'you people' newcomers, the black businessmen who ask and expect support of black people but spend their dollars with the white media.

For example, a substantial number of funeral directors place death notices on Tuesdays and Fridays in daily newspapers but refuse to do so on Tuesdays and Fridays in this black newspaper.

EUTAW GARDENS

We could go on . . . and get into the area of the mass media treatment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) audit. Stories made it appear that there was wrongdoing at the Eutaw Gardens complex in northwest Baltimore.

In an apparent attempt to discredit a black-owned and supported housing development providing new living quarters for 800 persons, they failed to mention that minor bookkeeping adjustments had been mediated last summer.

Only in the AFRO does one learn that the Prince Hall Masons (headed by Grand Master Samuel T. Daniels) and the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) built the Baker-Daniels complex (Eutaw Gardens), in 1972 at a cost of $4.5 million, and both groups have given over $100,000 to subsidize it.

OTHER PROBLEMS

There is much, much more on which we could reflect as we embark on a brand new year — the envious quota system for black law school graduates who take the bar examination, the lack of empathy in neighborhoods for those inmates released for rehabilitation and the sick with dope and alcohol problems who need homes, the crime which plagues our communities, and the overcrowded, obsolete prison facilities which permit inhuman treatment.

The high cost of living is demonstrated by this week's increase from 10 to 13 cents to mail a letter.

What we're stressing here is that the end of the year and the beginning of the new is a time for celebration, but let's make it brief.

The AFRO can not tell its readers that even with their individual and combined efforts the next 366 days will make a difference.

But based on our 83 years of experience we predict that with faith in the future, and with God's help, each individual can help make a difference, if he or she tries.

Happy new year!

Mrs. Santa:-thanks

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa is pleased with contributions to her annual endeavor. Generous readers donated over $15,718, enabling her to assist a substantial number of deserving families at Christmas.

There were many heart-rending cases like the fatal fire victims and the poor family robbed of their few gifts on Christmas Eve, but Mrs. Santa and her helpers went to the rescue.

We think, especially, of the elderly gentleman who visited our office with tea crisp $1 bills. He asked to remain anonymous, stating: "I just want you to use this money to help somebody."

To the dozens of organizations and individuals who supported the Mrs. Santa program, the AFRO is grateful. Your help made the holiday season a bit brighter for many less fortunate.

And, the AFRO doffs its hat to the hundreds of nurses, health workers, public servants, firemen, policemen, telephone and sanitation workers who also played Santa to their neighbors. As usual, they were at their posts in hospitals and public agencies on the holidays.

And, there were many, many more good neighbors, like members of the Baltimore City Schools Early Childhood staff, who declined to exchange gifts and instead visited Children's Hospital and played Santa.

To all who caught the Christmas spirit and helped another, the AFRO's Mrs. Santa says, "God Bless."

A clean slate for all of us

1976

Now and then — *by g. james fleming*

New year for the lawmakers

On January 14, the Md. General Assembly will be in session and, again, with Marvin Mandel as the state's chief executive.

This time, however, the governor is under federal indictment for taking bribes and for "racketeering," as part of influencing legislation in favor of those who had allegedly paid the bribes.

What affect this indictment will have on the leadership and clout of Gov. Mandel, remains to be seen.

Whether he can retain his office, while under the cloud of indictment, and while he is having his day in court, also remains to be seen. It may yet come to pass that he will have to take a leave of absence until his case is settled.

As this column listens, there is a great deal of popular hoping that Mandel will not have to join the procession of Anderson, Alton, Agnew and Nixon.

The coming legislature will also have its hands full with the flak from the recent reassessment.

More than usual, the people are aroused over these hikes in real estate value and are ready to react, somehow, unless some adjustment is made in the actual taxes paid.

Indeed, the entire matter of taxation needs examination, especially the universal system whereby those who build, improve and develop are penalized with higher (almost punitive) taxes.

Whether Baltimore City should appoint its own police commissioner will be another question before the legislature.

At the present time, the governor appoints the city's police commissioner, while the city pays him and the police force.

Legally, too, the commissioner is responsible to the governor and can be removed only by him.

Previous attempts to have this arrangement changed, in favor of the city, have been voted down. There is little indication of anything better in '76.

There may be better sailing for two proposals authorizing more foot patrolmen and the establishment of a police auxiliary for the city.

The hassle over the greater racial integration of the state colleges and universities, and the Mandel-HEW confrontation will probably be reviewed by the legislators.

University status, (or change of name), for Towson State College will also come up again.

Morgan State University, on the other hand, will be fighting for funds to develop into a university in fact.

Whether the black Legislative Caucus can maintain the same high degree of unity it demonstrated in the last session, especially in connection with the Morgan University bill, is more than should be expected.

There is bound to be some "feeling" left over from Delegate John Douglass' primary bid for Comptroller of Baltimore City and the councilmanic fiasco in the Fifth District.

In the Baltimore City Council eyes will be focused on Michael Mitchell, young, more-than-promising attorney, and new councilman.

He will be the object of three strong pulls: The Mitchell family "party line," the conflicting interests of Fourth District Democratic organizations, and his own convictions and programs.

Nothing but plusses follow his name, thus far. Everything he has done and said since his election bespeaks well for him as a councilman — even though, at the same time, the neighborhoods will miss the special voice of Councilwoman Mary B. Adams.

A little about a lot — *by madeline w. murphy*

Unfinished business for the New Year

In the letters I receive from readers, there is still the problem of discrimination in plants and companies in the areas of promotions and special privileges accorded as a matter of right to white males.

It is in this regard that we must be aware of amendments proposed to Article 49B by the Legislative Council that will water down the ability of the State Human Relations Commission to function, to litigate against companies that arrogantly flaunt the law.

These amendments will also politicize the Commission by giving the Governor's appointees greater authority, and make the Commission counsel the Executive Director in fact.

In 1972, the retiring counsel, George Soulter recommended that law enforcement powers of HRC be turned over to the Attorney General's office. Now we can see the movement in this direction with this new amendment, for it makes the high hopes of the HRC a mockery.

Here's what the amendment does, in part, for space does not permit analyzing the whole law:

It calls for only one trial examiner, when the director has a backlog of cases that will take them into the 21st century.

It prevents the conducting of surveys, studies or hearings where a party is involved in an enforcement case that might deal with other tangential problems pertaining to the case;

It prevents the filing of third party complaints by individuals who have observed the discrimination.

It imposes far greater specificity and particularity into filing complaints, with the hope that AFRO readers will encourage friends, relatives, or neighbors who are affected by this new law, which went into effect Jan. 1, 1976.

Domestic servants (called "maids") are now on the list of employees eligible to receive workmen's compensation benefits.

ANY PERSON EMPLOYED AS A DOMESTIC SERVANT IN A PRIVATE HOME WHO EARNS $250 OR MORE IN CASH IN ANY CALENDAR QUARTER FROM ANY SINGLE HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE.

Special note: Recently, a promising group, headed by Ms. Carrie King, was formed. Members call themselves, "Maryland Household Technicians," the term they prefer to domestics and maids.

All domestic servants or maids or household technicians are eligible for the new benefits except those who work in a private home where the employer has fewer than two such persons regularly employed 40 or more hours a week.

For example, if Mrs. Jones works in the household of the Peterses for 5 days a week and for 40 hours or more, she is NOT eligible.

But, if Mrs. Jones works for the Peterses three days a week and the Chamber of Commerce has put HRC executive director on the hot seat for tilting with their Goliaths.

Considering the cozy relationship between business and government, locally, statewide and nationally with its inroads into "Fixie-Dixie," its powerful lobbies, its representatives on boards and commissions, inventory tax relief proposals, we must exercise all the pressure we can upon our state legislators, upon Gov. Mandel in massive demonstrations, petitions and actual political wheeling and dealing.

For, if industry continues to hold the upper hand, you can wave goodbye to the pitiful form of democracy we have today.

It is this unfinished business to which the black community must address itself.

It is this problem that overrides so many others, in a time of inflation and soaring unemployment that not only holds the key for our survival, but also gives us an urgent New Year's resolution for which we must work all the harder:

To end all vestiges of discrimination in every level of business and government in the State of Maryland.

Only the strengthening the State Human Relations Commission, by defeating this crippling amendment, will we brighten the dim light at the end of the tunnel.

The young beat — *by larry young*

Additional benefits for domestics

(The writer, 25, represents Baltimore City's 38th District in the Md. House of Delegates.)

During the 1975 General Assembly Session, I introduced H.B. No. 492: An Act concerning — Domestic Servants — **Eligibility for Workmen's Compensation Benefits.**

This legislation, second only to the Morgan State University bill, demonstrates the political leverage of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus. I should add Governor Mandel is to be commended for signing the bill despite a "low profile" fight to get him to oppose it.

The following information is printed with the hope that AFRO readers will encourage friends, relatives, or neighbors who are affected by this new law, which went into effect Jan. 1, 1976.

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The powerful business interests want no further truck with any regulations that would make them obey the law against discrimination, nor do they feel that their present policies are in violation.

Smith family for the other two days, she IS eligible.

What to do if you have problems or misunderstandings with your employer about your rights under this new bill.

Contact — the office of Daniel T. Doherty, chairman, Workmen's Compensation Commission, 108 N. Lexington St., Baltimore, 21202, telephone: 383-4700.

Here are others who can help: — Ms. Elaine L. Newman, executive director, Md. Commission on the Status of Women, 1100 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, 21201, telephone: 383-3781, or,

Ms. Carrie King, president, Maryland Household Technicians, 1050 W. Saratoga St., Baltimore, 21223.

On another subject, Urban Service Agency, Area G Director Frank Petaway, reminds me to ask all AFRO readers to put on their calendars our Health Legislation Workshop set for Saturday, January 10, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore City Campus.

It is being sponsored by area hospitals and a cross section of civic organizations represented by Ms. Ethel Bonds, Ms. Agnes Welsh, Irving Conway, Reginald Hill, and others.

The workshop will feature an update on health legislation before the Maryland General Assembly session, beginning Wednesday, January 14, 1976.

Even though the United States has the world's finest facilities for open heart surgery, brain and eye operations, and its most sophisticated life-saving equipment, the fear of poor health tops the list of personal fears for too many Marylanders.

Problems result because of skyrocketing medical costs, not only for specialized services, but in all areas of health needs, from drugs to surgery.

In Baltimore city alone, several hospitals are at the brink of financial destruction due to uncompensated care.

But, as dismal as the nation's record is in providing minimal health care and nutrition to all its citizens, there have been encouraging signs that change is coming.

There is hope that needed reforms will be made, that the institutions dominating this crucial area of our lives will improve their performance.

Increased concern for health care has reached the stage where several members of Congress are actively seeking to develop some form of national health insurance.

On the homefront, another good step is the merger of hospital and civic interest groups to host a state-wide Health Legislation Workshop — University of Maryland, Baltimore City Campus, January 10, 8:30 a.m.

All AFRO readers should make this workshop a must.

Smile

Sign in a flower shop: "We don't mind if you stick your nose in our business."

Ego is when a man sitting in a crowded bus tries to flirt with a woman who is standing.

82 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 column of choice

By Marion Banfield

Thanks for freedom will be part of the thinking of young and old this Christmas season.

Like many others, I worry about the use of freedom. My hope is that families will talk about freedom as they gather together at this holiday season.

As we depend more and more on bureaucracies to defend us from problems, freedom is in danger. Government consists of human beings exercising power in various ways.

The more we call on these individuals, the more power we give them. This is how we add bureaucracies.

So many of us tend to accept the rules and the piles of papers that bureaucrats develop to keep their jobs, that we give up our freedoms and powers. We think we are getting security!

By the time we get hysterical our lives become even more dependent on government.

I hope to live to see the black community recognize and use power without having a riot.

We are so insensitive to our own political freedom and power that we didn't have sense enough to turn out in large numbers to put in decent black politicians to share the powers of government on November 4th.

The news media gave us plenty of warning about a light vote. We were part of a light vote, not a wise vote.

Too many of our children are using freedom to deny themselves the benefits of our taxes. They truant, they disparage the ideals of a superior education.

They physically and verbally abuse because they feel free to offend others.

Freedom to reject ideas is part of being human. As we reject ideas and standards, our cultural and personal values determine our replacement.

We have freedom. Without awareness of how to use and cherish it, we may live to see the erosion of this quality of life as surely as we have witnessed the erosion of farmland.

A choice is for families, churches, and schools to develop more awareness of the value and history of freedom.

A choice is for our young people to recognize the discipline that is necessary for survival with freedom.

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).

"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

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

A-5 JANUARY 3, 1976

School suspension fraud

Dear AFRO:

The daily newspaper articles concerning the suspension policy of the Baltimore City Public schools have a real methods to their madness.

Whenever the political fathers want to accomplish a task that may be contrary to public opinion they call on their propaganda people, (certain news media), to get the general public ready psychologically and emotionally to accept it.

The news media started a campaign to discredit the suspension policy in the public schools by continually informing the public how student suspensions have increased over the past year.

They are conducting subjective surveys of school staff personnel, students, teachers and administrators. Nowhere in the reporting is there mention of the real causes of some of the problems students experience in the school, i.e., overcrowded classes, insufficient teaching and staff personnel, improper class assignments, racially biased school personnel and a host of other problems which cause students to act out of the norm.

Additionally, there has been no mention that there may be patterns in the school system where some white groups are discrediting certain schools so they can justify keeping their children out and ignore the desegregation plan.

The suspension policy in the words of several school board members and I quote. "Does not punish the students enough."

There is a move on foot to build or renovate the Juvenile Detention Center in Baltimore City. Several public officials have already publicly endorsed the idea.

Gov. Mandel indicated a few weeks ago that he was in favor of having a juvenile center built in Baltimore.

The Curfew Law recently passed by the City Council is the first step towards railroading mostly black and poor youngsters into the Juvenile Detention Center.

There is another factor I believe many parents are not aware of the rules governing the disciplinary removal and the rights of students in this regard.

The result is the disciplinary removal designed for only three days stretches into several weeks and keeps students out of school that long.

Rather than talk about spending more money on more and better teachers so that students can have smaller classes for better learning atmosphere, the school board would look at the other end— propose policies which will force students out of school and ultimately to juvenile detention centers.

Too many black parents are unaware that these juvenile centers are being planned to house potential black fathers and relatives of people we know.

Many young people who drop out of school and get in juvenile centers will advance to the Md. Penitentiary and the Md. House of Correction.

Citizens of Baltimore should get involved with the activities of the present school board.

We should remember that this school board is composed of all of Mayor Schaefer's appointments. This is the same school board which illegally removed Dr. Patterson, the finest educator in this nation, from our school system.

This same school board is now preparing to tighten up the suspension policy which in effect will force out more ill-prepared black and poor young people into the streets creating a jungle-like atmosphere in our city.

This is only one of the ways black people are kept from real equality. When the majority of a race of people is prevented from receiving quality education that race of people will continue to be denied equal, economic and political representation.

JAMES M. GRIFFIN

(Editor's note: The writer is former vice president of the Baltimore City School Board.)

Minding our children

Dear AFRO:

The recent Watergate exposure awakened the nation to a shocking awareness which no doubt has put asunder the faith of many Americans in the morality and reliability of its leaders.

As time began to heal the wounds of Watergate, the recent exposure of illegal and criminal activity by the CIA and FBI surfaced.

The exposure brought to life that these agencies sought to undermine and destroy political leaders, and if necessary, to assassinate them as was the case with the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It has become increasingly apparent that the state of oppression in which black people are subjected is political. No longer do the chains shackle our necks, wrists and ankles but our struggling efforts to gain social, economic, educational, as well as political equality.

The City Council's recent passage of the curfew bill, coupled with censorship, wiretapping, repeated citizen abuse and the violation of their civil rights strongly hint toward Baltimore city becoming a police state.

This would mean more power and control by the state and police force over citizens and public offenders. Is it not enough that our nations' magistrates possess such power?

The purpose of this letter is to make a public appeal, mainly to black parents, not to give up in the task of rearing our children in the way in which we will be proud.

Our nations' prisons, percentage-wise, are predominantly black. Does this not ring a bell in our deafened ears that, again, we are victims of a subtle form of genocide?

It is most important that we black men reassume the role of the father and husband which, in many too many cases, our women have been forced to do.

The love and unity of our families are our greatest ally. Because we fail in our homes, our children have thus gone astray. Our children can not rear themselves.

With all of black Americans' achievements and significant contributions, total recognition is still maliciously denied.

But we must not let that be a deterrent for self improvement for we are not a race without a cause. To be born black is not a sin, but to despise one's blackness is to shame the heritage of black womanhood.

JEREMIAH J. LAND.

An omission

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the excellent article on my daughter, Crystal Clear Cummings, in the December 6th edition.

Your photographer, Ms. Norma L. Spencer, and writer, Ms. Wendell K. Sutton, were beautiful people to relate to.

Two persons were omitted, Crystal's assistant, Subhan Allah, and Stephen Brown, engineer. We performed at the pediatric ward of University Hospital on December 16. Everyone had a good time, performers, children and staff.

We are blessed to have friends such as the AFRO-AMERICAN.

MARCIA B. CUMMINGS.

(Editor's Note: Miss Cummings is an 8th grade student at Roland Park Junior High. She recently starred as "Dorothy" in "The Wiz" at Montebello State Hospital.

Dear Jan:

I am almost 14, and like a boy, 14. My mother likes him very much, but she doesn't think I should go out with him both Saturday and Sunday nights. Do you think two nights are too much?
UNCRETAIN

Dear Uncertain:

What I think really doesn't matter — it's what your mother thinks that counts. If you are allowed to date on Saturday nights, consider yourself fortunate. Most girls your age aren't allowed to date at night any day of the week.

Dear Jan:

I have a friend who is very nice to me and wants to marry me. I love him and I think he loves me. He is very jealous and seems to be a bit nervous, with a bad temper. Do you think he would make me a good husband?
WONDERING.

Dear Wondering:

No one can predict how a marriage will turn out, but as a guide just bear in mind that the temperament and habits of a man continue after the wedding.

Dear Jan:

I like a girl who says she likes me very much, but she can't let me date her now. She had a boyfriend but they broke up and she keeps telling me that she wants to get over the heartache.

I have been waiting for two months. Do you think I should keep waiting or try to find someone else?
IMPATIENT

Dear Impatient:

Find someone else, bud, sounds like this girl is just giving you the old stall routine.

Make it official

The writer's name and address must be included in all Letters to the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

Those which contain printed or typed names and initials will not be considered.

All letters MUST be signed. Names will be omitted if requested.

The AFRO reserves the right to edit all letters.

If you ask me — *by b*

Prayers for the New Year

TEACH

Our Heavenly Father, give us the strength of silence;
To hold our tongues when we are provoked or mislead;
To restrain our hands when we are tempted to give e[illegible] old
minds. [illegible] pint
Help us not to talk [illegible]
— not to preen [illegible]
even if we have [illegible] Essex and Ellicott City
Above all, may we [illegible]
are not in the whi[illegible]
the lightning or the storm, but [illegible]
still small voice.
Oh God teach us to listen. Amen.

PLUS AND MINUS

Our Heavenly Father, for our meditation at close of day may we remember that:
All of us have pluses and minuses. All of us have weaknesses and strengths.
Life is replete with contrasting light and shadows, joy and sorrow. But help us to remember that we love ourselves in spite of our faults, and we need to love others in the same way Amen.

PLAN OUR DAYS

On Lord, help us to plan our days, our hours of work, meditation, and recreation, so that if we knew they were to prove to be our last days, we should find our program sound, helpful and worthy of approval in Thy Sight, Amen.

NO SAINT

Oh Lord, we would not be a saint, but help us to be cheerful when it is difficult to be cheerful, patient when it is difficult to be patient.
Help us to push on sometimes when we want to stand still, be silent when we want to answer an enemy and be agreeable when we want to be disagreeable.
Come unto our lives Oh Lord with the brightness of the morning's sun and remain with us so that we yield to no sin nor run into any kind of danger. May all our doings be ordered by Thee and be righteous in Thy sight, Amen.

THE BETTER WORLD

Oh Lord, we come to the end of the day and pause for a moment of thanks and of meditation in which we await Thy blessing, the easing of our burdens, and this fellowship as we break bread together.
Lord, all of us want this to be a better world. Help us not only to live in such a world, but to help in creating it. Amen.

A NEW YEAR

We are grateful that Thou has permitted us to see this New Year's Day reasonably sound in body and in mind, comforted and blessed by our work, our family, and our friends.
We see ahead of us a new year, bright and shining, and as we go out to meet it, constrain us to avoid snap judgements and hasty conclusions.
Amen

their afflictions, Have them realize that Thou, Oh Lord, and all of us care deeply that they may become well again. Amen.

TOOTING OUR HORN

O dear God, help us to do the work of the world without bluster or brag, or what we call tooting our own horn.
Let us remember that whatever comforts or material things we accumulate in life are only loaned to us for a season.
And when we are inclined to take of "I" and glory in "me," help us to remember that Thou hast put millions of planets and stars and suns in orbit, and so far as we know they make no wound. Amen.

END OF YEAR

We thank Thee, O Lord, for another year, in which Thou hast directed our labors and brought us to the end of it with a sense of achievement and the will to continue.
For the wisdon, the guidance and the strength Thou hast given us, we are grateful. Amen.

ENVY

Oh Lord, let us not be envious of those who have more wealth or position or influence than we.
Let us not look down on those who are able to restrain themselves from excesses in eating, drinking, wagering, or in the use of narcotics.
We ask that we be grateful for what we have, to be content with the gifts Thou hast given us, and to use them for the benefit of ourselves and others less fortunate. Amen.

Tax assessment query and answer

Dear AFRO:

In the Dec. 30th issue, Dr. Cleveland Chandler called the new tax assessment a burden on the poor and black. One point he made was that in some inner city areas the tax is unfair on the poor. I would like to know how he arrived at this.

As a resident of the 2000 Block of North Payson St., (21217) where all homeowners are considering it a slap in our face at the reduction in our property value. The representative from the Tax Assessor's office did not come into our homes to inspect the premises for improvements but only stood on the steps or in the doorway and asked questions.

To further show how the Tax Assessor rated our block he stated on the breakdown sheet which we requested that there is a traffic light on Payson St. The closest light is at North and Monroe and North Ave and Smallwood St.

It is a known fact that Zone 21217 of the inner city is in the shaded part of the city map as far as home insurance, auto insurance, fire insurance and any other services are of importance to protecting our property.

We homeowners in this block have gone to considerable expense over a period of years to improve the value of our property and this is due to the few eyesore pieces of property in the block owned by absentee landlords.

They have bled the tenants dry and rather than make home improvements will let their taxes become delinquent and force a public auction at such low value.

Even that is a profit to the purchaser who is not thinking of the good of the neighborhood but only the few more dollars they can drain from the tenants.

True, our taxes may go somewhat higher but to me, personally, it will be a blessing after 27 years as a property owner in this block.

My husband and I are protesting the assessment of our property but not for the increase in value but DECREASE and have requested a hearing to this effect.

Again, I say where did Dr. Chandler get his information? He should take another look as a supposedly qualified representative of the minority business association.

ANNA J. PAXTON
(Mrs.) WALTER H. PAXTON

THE ANSWER

Dr. Cleveland A. Chandler in his letter to the AFRO, December 20, said in part:

"The amounts of the increased assessments are ridiculous. Baltimore city residents are and should protest against this outrageous portrayal of public trust for three reasons . . .

"For example, the apparent unjust, unfair, unreasonable and inequitable assessment of properties in those sections of the city where poor and black people are forced to live."

Dr. Chandler is professor of Management at Towson State College. In addition he is president of the Business League of Baltimore, Inc., a minority business association; and president of Social Science, Inc., a consulting and research firm located at 2125 Maryland Ave.

In answer to the reader's letter printed above, he says: — "Your reader's argument is all right but she comes to the wrong conclusion.

"The landlords are coming in there and forcing the sale of houses on auction driving the home values down especially for homeowners who live there.

"Somebody hasn't told this reader that value for tax assessment has little or nothing to do with the actual value of homes as an owner occupant.

"In fact the higher the taxes on her house, the less the value on the market because no one is going to buy it if they have to pay exceptionally high taxes.

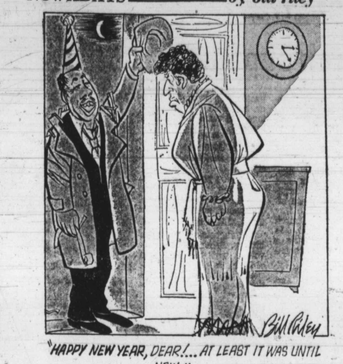
"That is if she wants to sell it. If she plans to stay there, as she apparently does, then the high taxes based on the high evaluation will only make her expenses higher every year.

"So, what she is doing is asking the city officials to raise her taxes and raise her expenses.

"Now that's quite all right if she wants to do that but she is not acting in the interest of herself or in the interest of her neighbors.

"Many of her arguements are consistent with what I was trying to argue but she just jumps to the wrong conclusion."

NOWADAYS — *by bill riley*



"HAPPY NEW YEAR, DEAR?... AT LEAST IT WAS UNTIL NOW."

A'S AND YOU

ARIES (March 21 — April 20) A new companion inspires you. A slight quarrel arises with a loved one, but all turns out well.

TAURUS (April 21 — May 21) Your loyalty to a friend is tested. A spot of trouble over money needs careful thought.

GEMINI (May 22 — June 21) Avoid daydreaming and be more realistic. Artistic hobbies pay off.

CANCER (June 22 — July 23) Spend a little time by yourself for a change. A special party at the weekend taxes your serenity.

LEO (July 24 — August 23) Private matters demand urgent attention. Setbacks are overcome.

VIRGO (August 24 — September 23) Dealings with children need extra tact. You get out and about a bit more.

LIBRA (Septe[illegible] Steady progress [illegible] improving yo[illegible] brushing up on [illegible]

SCORPIO (Oc[illegible] 22) Take it [illegible] relationships wi[illegible]

SAGITTARI[illegible] December 22) [illegible] Mix with neigh[illegible] Watch out for [illegible]

CAPRICO[illegible] January 20) [illegible] friends and [illegible] positive sex p[illegible]

AQUARIUS [illegible] 19) Avoid getti[illegible] a family disco[illegible]

PISCES (Fe[illegible] Choose words[illegible] portant letter[illegible] to a good ide[illegible]

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems. You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections and complain and inquire about AFRO news stories and policies.

You need only to write a post-card to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address and telephone number.

You may also call 728-8200, extension 64 or 50, between the hours 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and speak directly to AFRO-Line.

QUESTION: For the past twenty years, I have made sizeable contributions of clothing, repairable appliances and furniture to support the Goodwill Industries. In addition I have made monetary contributions to the annual Thanksgiving project.

To my surprise when I called this year for the usual pickup, I was told that the truck assigned to my area was small and they could only accept clothing [illegible] me.

[illegible] AFRO-Line collections of Christmas trees will be made Monday, January 12; Tuesday, January 13; Wednesday, January 14.

Also, on Tuesday, January 20; Wednesday, January 21; and Thursday, January 22.

Put your tree out on your regular garbage collection day in the weeks mentioned.

Where to call

BALTIMORE ANSWERS YOU (BAY) — for help in problems with city agencies — 396-1234 (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION — for complaints of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability — for report of tension in your community — 396-3141.
CONSUMER PROTECTION — for questionable business practices — 383-2700.
CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND — Recruiting from robberies or assaults — 539-5340.
DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-9965.
EMERGENCY — Housing, heating, light — 234-2172 or 265-6525 — After 6 p.m. and weekends, 396-2426 or 396-2053.
FIRES — 685-1313.
HOT LINE — 539-5151 — for abandoned motor vehicles, dirty yards, garbage collection, clogged sewers, street repairs, junky trash pickup.
INFORMATION — City Jail 396-5211— Drug Abuse Counseling, 396-2120 — Job, 383-5468— Legal Aid, 539-5340 — Pension Reform, 962-3914- Transit and Traffic, 396-3495.
MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6051 — Greater Homewood, 396-6050 — Northwest, 396-6224 — Steuart Hill, 396-6020.
POLICE — emergency, 222-3333 — community relations, 396-2110 — for problems at night or on weekends, 396-2284, or Homicide 396-2721.
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — for complaints about phone or gas and electric services, 383-2374.
RAPE CENTER — 383-RAPE.
RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188.
SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-2111 — Animal Removal, 396-6218 — Defective Sidewalk, 396-3168 — Food Stamps, 234-2731, 234-2413 — Furnace Check — 396-4429 — Rats, 396-4418.
WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 234-4190.

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