I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. — 1929-1968.

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)

National King holiday

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have been 47 years old this week if he had survived the assassin's bullet.

Ever since that frightful day in Memphis — April 4, 1968, people have found ways to memorialize this century's greatest messiah of non-violence and peace. Schools, hospitals, streets bear his name.

Now, however, in America's Bicentennial year, is the appropriate time for a long-overdue tribute to Dr. King. The Congress of the United States should designate his birthday, January 15, as a national holiday.

Our national lawmakers have had such a proposal in the hopper for several years. They should take it off the back burner and make it law.

Such action by Congress will eliminate much confusion. For example, here in Maryland, at the urging of the Legislative Black Caucus, the 1975 General Assembly declared the King birthday a holiday.

All state offices were closed this year, except the governor's and the Legislature which did business as usual.

In Baltimore City, the schools are closed today (Friday, Jan. 16). Schools throughout the state took no holiday.

City Hall offices were open and most city employees were allowed to take Thursday or Friday as an extra personal leave day. There was no trash collection on the King birthday, but banks and federal offices were open.

Employees of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN observed the King birthday as a holiday, as did workers in our affiliated offices in Washington, Richmond, Newark and Philadelphia. Other Baltimore newspaper offices were open.

In Atlanta the other day, Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, said: "the greatest tribute would come in fulfilling those things he called for — the nation displaying its commitment to putting people on their feet on earth . . ."

Most of us agree on this, but we also do not see this happening in the immediate future. Thus, with the time for fulfilling the "dream" obviously somewhat in the distance, the best immediate tribute we could pay this great man would be to designate January 15 as a national holiday.

Congress is back at work after its mid-winter holiday, so the time is ripe for action.

We have a national holiday for Christopher Columbus, whose prime accomplishment, as we understand it, was that he "discovered" the Indians.

We have a national holiday for George Washington, "the father of our country," who apparently never saw any contradiction between fighting for liberation from Great Britain and keeping black people in chains at the same time.

Yet, there is no national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who did as much as anyone to make the promise of the American dream of "liberty and justice for all," a reality.

Many of the advances black citizens have made in the past two decades are due in a large measure to the sacrifices, courage, frustrations and spilled blood of Dr. King and his devoted followers.

There is little doubt that there still is a long way — a real long way — to go to insure equal opportunity for all citizens, but it is hard to imagine where we would be today without the giant strides which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. helped us make.

A national holiday — observed by all Americans — would be a fitting tribute to the man who preached "now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood."

Gamble with HEW

Even with an apparently friendly home-base federal judge, Maryland and Baltimore City have to know they are running a high risk in challenging the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), on desegregation.

At stake in this showdown are millions of dollars in federal funds to the city's public schools and the state's public colleges.

Two things are disturbing about the city and state suits aimed at preventing HEW from cutting off funds.

One is that we are convinced they could have satisfied HEW without going this costly route. In the first place, HEW is extremely easy to satisfy.

Had it not been for suits by the NAACP and others, HEW would still be going about its jagged enforcement practices of the past. Even now we are not sure that HEW is doing anything more than blustering.

Another distressing aspect, the similar statements made by Gov. Marvin Mandel and Mayor Schaefer.

According to them, if there is a cutoff of funds at the college or public school level, the students who will be hurt most by the governor and mayor's defiance will be black and other poor ones.

We don't like the tone of their logic, because neither has a record of going out on a limb for black students.

Is it because the victims of their defiance of federal mandates would be black and other poor students that Gov. Mandel and Mayor Schaefer are willing to play Russian roulette in an unnecessary gamble with millions of U.S. dollars?

Ugly job figures

The figures speak louder than words. They show there is an ugly pattern of racial discrimination in state jobs.

Some 10,771 of the 42,929 persons employed in 17 state agencies are black, or a total of 25 per cent.

On the surface, this would appear to be fair employment, but a breakdown of the figures will show this is not so.

There is a pattern which indicates there is a studied exclusion from higher paying jobs and calculated assignment of black workers to the menial or low salaried jobs.

There are no black administrative heads of any of the 17 state departments surveyed.

Further, eleven of these departments have no black officials and administrators or as few as 5. The four "zero" departments are Agriculture, Budgetary and Fiscal Administration, General Services and Legislative.

Largest concentration of black employees is non-professional and menial capacities.

Nearly half, some 2,753 of the 4,996 para-professionals are black, and 2,155 or nearly half of the 4,605 maintenance employees are black.

These figures — as of March, 1975 — are based on a survey prepared by a group of interested citizens who call themselves the Baltimore Metropolitan Committee Inc., (BMCI), and coordinated by Del. John Douglass.

Armed with this information, the BMCI has asked Gov. Mandel to support a revision in the Fair Practices Code which would give backing to an affirmative action plan.

Further, the citizens' group asks establishment of an Office of Equal Employment Opportunity in the State Department of Personnel.

These are two requests which appear both modest and reasonable.

The job figures are evidence there is need for crisis action. Concerned citizens should insist that their elected officials endorse the BMCI recommendations and urge the governor to include them in his administration proposals.

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).

young beat ——— by larry young

Predictions for 1976

(Editor's note: The writer, Larry Young, is at 25, the youngest member of the Md. House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore's 38th District. Mr. Young had the occasion to listen to Mrs. Jean Dixon who has gained a reputation for various predictions over the last decade and felt that it was such an easy chore that he would throw his hat into the ring, too. Here are his predictions for the year, 1976).

Two more black persons will be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mayor Schaefer will expedite an agenda which will be an obvious "boost" to the black community.

The Baltimore Orioles will win the American League Pennant, not the World Series.

Thomas D'Alesandro III will emerge as the leading citizen most effective in bringing together the white and black communities. In fact, he will be widely considered as a mayoral candidate in 1979.

Greater cooperation will be demonstrated by the five black members of the City Council. Clarence (Du)Burns will be the key spokesman.

Michael Mitchell will properly deny interest in higher office this year — watch him, he is a strong political figure even though he is only a freshman councilman.

The AFRO will soar to greater heights and its Mrs. Santa will surpass her 1975 Christmas fund-raising goal and its Clean Block Campaign — will have the best year ever.

State Senator Clarence Blount will be given serious consideration as a possibility for Lt. Governor.

Mayor Thomas Bradley of Los Angeles will be a Vice-Presidential consideration.

Winning the Md. Democratic Presidential Primary — Jackson 33 per cent, Shriver 30 per cent, Wallace 20 per cent, Carter 15 per cent, others . . . I will announce my nominee in a few weeks.

The Gospel, Broadway-bound play by Vinette Carroll "Your Arm's Too Short To Box With God," will be the biggest thing on Broadway by July, 1976, with the assistance of the dynamic Alex Bradford, the charismatic Bobby Hill and the characterization of Jesus, plus the strong and heart felt delivery of songs throughout the play.

It will win a Tony Award for Mrs. Carroll. You can see the play now at the Ford Theatre in Washington. Please treat yourself.

Health issues will gain the importance they should from the public.

This will be the year a public hue and cry for services deleted from the budget will cause a major tax increase next year.

A citizen's committee will be formed (or certainly should be) to honor separately the following persons — Hon. Lloyal Randolph, Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell, Mrs. Enolia McMillan, Henry G. Parks, Jr.

Key people, 30 or under, to watch — Elva Tillman (City Planner), Reginald Hill (proprietor, Day Nursery), David Robinson, (lawyer), Ben Phillips (reporter); Nathaniel McFadden, Bradley, (MSU); Tony Fulton (UM); Milton Mayo (CSC), Clarence Bishop, (congressional assistant).

In a few weeks my column will tell about Baltimore's young adult leadership and who we think will emerge.

More churchgoers will attend church with greater regularity.

Two young, informed, progressive and articulate ministers from a sound parochial base will be recognized as local and statewide religious leaders — Dr. John Bryant and Dr. Harold A. Carter. Dr. Carter will continue to carry God's message over local airwaves but greater mass coverage outside of the local radio stations carrying the New Shiloh's broadcast is predicted here.

It will be resolved at the end of the 1976 Bicentennial year by a greater number of people who already know this to be true — the way we, as black folk, can obtain leverage is to get the political trenches throughout this country. That is where we will overcome.

The 1976 Slogan of the Year — "Let's keep on struggling!" — To quote Mr. Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political Studies, "Throughout history and in all parts of the world, minorities have been in motion to gain access to power, influence and economic benefits through determination and a common purpose . . . But remember; power concedes nothing without a demand. Let's keep on struggling!"

Got your score card — okay — let's compare the above predictions next year around this time.

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

We may need strange bed fellows

History will show the irreparable damage to the minds of youth — our future leaders — that is being committed over this racist resistance to busing and desegregation.

It is comparable to training a dog to be mean so that he will ultimately destroy his master.

Moreover, the calumny of this fight is evident first on the part of Governor Marvin Mandel, who has been successful in fulfilling his commitment to desegregating only 35 per cent of the colleges, by his own count; and the cry from Mayor William Donald Schaefer; "Where do we go from here?" as he joins the state of Maryland suit in defying HEW.

Both have the knack, suddenly, of finding black people in so-called power positions, the sad commentary being that when they earn or are appointed to good job opportunities within the system, they must be supportive of the system for their own survival and thus become enforcers of a racist system that we had hoped they could change.

The black college presidents must cry, "Wolf" that this would do violence to their colleges, (along with appropriate press editorials) when there is nothing at all within the letter from HEW to the Governor that threatens black colleges.

Rather, it might be a threat from the Governor to cut their state budgets, and alas, the corruption continues.

Meanwhile, no one has tried to reconcile the bitter fight to integrate Cherry Hill Junior High School with Lakeland Junior High.

No one recognizes the spreading disease of hate that resulted in disruption, defiance or disobedience that followed that skirmish, which caused the administration to succumb to the will of the mob in Lakeland to prevent them from turning on their masters.

Therefore, Cherry Hill remains all black and Lakeland, all white.

With the latest demeaning figures on employment of black people in state government (a comprehensive study of the city would reveal the same thing), the plantation drama is upon us with all the characters on stage, front and center, prepared to re-enact the story: "How to Continue Slavery Without Really Trying."

It is reminiscent of the story of the plantation boss who put an eleven-year-old black boy behind a mule at dawn:

Come noon, the mule was lathered with sweat, whereupon the farmer stopped the boy long enough to change to a fresh mule so that the boy could plow the field until sundown.

And so long as we remain like the boy without rebelling against injustice, our burden will become harder to carry.

At the same time, the latest figures on integration of the University of Maryland at Baltimore in its professional schools has been increased to a mere two per cent, not anywhere near the 20 per cent promised by the Governor five years ago.

While the figures show a dismal stagnation in black enrollment in the professional schools, the price of desegregation, without attendant accountability rises, and supports the chancellor's questionable administrative program to the tune of $196,000 last year to $350,000 this year.

This program includes a quota system for the schools of dentistry and medicine, that carries the loophole that full scholarships be given to ten black students in the amount of $3,000 and $2,500, respectively, but that the school can grant scholarships to any student regardless of qualifications.

The questions arise on the face of last year's black enrollment in these schools — five per cent — has the money really been used exclusively for black and minority students, and if not who gets it?

And in yet another vein, while the people in Fells Point cry doublecross over their lack of even an advisory capacity with HDC, in plans for a parking lot adjacent to an unwanted floating bar off the wharfs; while there has been no resolution about the expressway's impending path that will destroy a stable neighborhood, political representatives like Councilwoman Barbara Mikulski, try to keep all of us with similar problems divided with the philosophy of "ethnocentricity," rather than band us together to fight our common problems to rout the enemy.

Busing, desegregation, destruction of neighborhoods are peripheral issues that are heated up to hysterical proportions to divert us from greater problems — growing unemployment, higher cost of living, with no feasible plans nor enough jobs to cope with these problems.

This bicentennial year may, however, find us with strange bed fellows in this struggle to make the great promise of this country a reality.

Perhaps as the contradictions grow sharper, a coalition of all oppressed peoples will become a matter of consideration for our cooperative survival as human beings.

This was Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, shouldn't it be ours?

Other voices say...

Little league leaves its shell

The annual Little League World Series in Williamsport will live up to its name again this year with teams from all over the world eligible to participate.

The Little League board of directors has rectified the grievous error it committed in 1974, when it arbitrarily limited the Series to Americans after teams from Taiwan had won six years in a row.

In a face-saving explanation, Little League President Peter McGovern says foreign teams will be required to adhere to the same rules as those governing U.S. teams — particularly the requirement that each team draw its players from an area with no more than 25,000 population.

But rules could have been applied uniformly in 1974, or earlier, without a wholesale ban on foreign teams. Any team, U.S. or foreign, that does not abide by the rules should be barred not only from the Series but from Little League play at any level.

The ugly fact is that ostracizing foreign teams in 1974 was a bad case of sour grapes.

Little League officials complained then about a "win at any cost" attitude among foreign players while Americans presumably were playing just for fun.

It was a lame alibi for sore losers.

We are not at all offended by the prospect of teams from outside the United States winning the Little League World Series occasionally, or even frequently, as long as fair rules are equitably applied and enforced.

American youngsters will not suffer — and, indeed, will benefit — from realization that the U.S.A. is not automatically No. 1 in everything or anything.

The best of champions is to perform like champions. Play ball!

(From the Philadelphia Inquirer.)

Now and then ——— by g. james fleming

We may be losing out-again

This column stands shoulder to shoulder, with Cong. Parren J. Mitchell in his concern, last week on this page, as to whether Baltimore's and Maryland's blacks are not "slowly losing some of our hard-fought gains . . ."

The potshots being taken against the state's Human Relations Commission and the shoddy treatment given Harold Jennifer, director of the Civic Center, as mentioned by Mr. Mitchell, are two of the signs along the way.

The continued small number of black judges, the even lesser representation on city and state commissions, are other signs.

Most important is the high rate of unemployment among blacks, especially among black youths, and the many attacks on those who must turn to unemployment insurance or welfare.

The immediate years ahead are not bright for black people in the United States, as this column has noted in previous weeks.

The tenor of Governor Reagan's campaign and his popularity, to date, throw some light on how far the temper of the American people has sprung backwards during the past ten years.

The new Supreme Court, with its Nixon-Ford majority, climaxes the fears of those who foresee the clock going backwards, the same direction it took in 1876-77 and in 1896.

Representative Mitchell calls upon black people to move in the direction of a philosophy as to how they will react to the threats being made against them. He sees a "fight-back strategy," sooner or later, if we read him correctly.

The clinching paragraph and warning word from the Seventh District Congressman is this: "Hand-picked leaders cannot make the decision for us. Elected officials cannot necessarily do so. Paid off organizations are incapable of making the decision. Only the people can make the decision. Let the people decide. Let the people act."

Here is where Mr. Mitchell loses this writer.

Who are "the people" — the people acceptable to him?

Who are "hand-picked" leaders?

And who are those not "hand-picked"? If hand-picked, hand-picked by whom?

How does one know when, and if, a leader is hand-picked? What does the congressman include in "paid-off organizations"?

Perhaps, in another column, Mr. Mitchell will be more explicit and specific.

Of course, people are important. It was what the people did not do last fall that is so grossly responsible for the present plight of black people in Maryland.

But, it is no dark conspiracy when politicians behave like politicians and exploit their opponents' strengths and weaknesses.

Does a mayor need to pay any attention to black voters when they prove they cannot elect a black councilmen even from a district in which we are slightly over 50 per cent of the population?

Or, does this mayor need to include, more of us in high appointive positions when black citizens with 60 per cent majority in the city, can elect a city-wide black candidate only by the merest accident?

Asking the same questions, why does a governor need to take black citizens seriously in making his appointments? (We are speaking of politics, not morals).

But, the people do not vote, automatically. They are caused to vote; made to vote — by verbal persuasion or: material bait.

If a people or a group does not have any material things, then it must use persuasion — organized persuasion, as Baltimore organized and conducted in the late 1950s and the early 1960s, in its "Register-to-Vote" campaigns.

The key question is: "Who will do the organizing?" Not "the people" in general.

It takes "leaders," hand-picked or God-selected, and it takes organizations. In the case of Maryland, it may take consolidated organizations.

Nothing said here takes away from Mr. Mitchell's concern over the fact time is running out for black people to get together, to think and work towards a strategy of survival — not survival in the rubble, but survival on all the levels of American life, a national life which, it is to be hoped, will be enough to want to share and survive in.

People are reading

Books most often requested at the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library this week are listed below. If the one you want is not immediately available, the librarian can suggest another which you might enjoy.

NON FICTION

HELTER SKELTER, Vincent Bugliosi (HV6533.C2B63)
WHEN I SAY NO, I FEEL GUILTY, Manuel Smith (PB375.A8S68)
JUDY, Gerold Frank (ML420.C253.F7)
STRICTLY SPEAKING, Edwin Newman (PE2808.N4)
HOW THE GOOD GUYS FINALLY WON, Jimmy Breslin (E861.B73

FICTION

RAGTIME, E. L. Doctorow
LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR, Judith Rossner
THE HEART LISTENS, Helen Van Slyke
SHOGUN, James Clavell
THE PIRATE, Harold Robbins
CENTENNIAL, James Michener

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)

"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

Political awareness

Dear AFRO:

It is very clear that the masses of ordinary citizens, black and white must stay abreast of issues which affect their lives.

Our elected officials will only respond to our needs when they know we are informed and are keeping a check on their performances in office.

As a rule, most elected officials listen to the rich, the affluent, special interest groups, and contributors to their campaigns.

Even though these officials were elected by ordinary citizens, they seem to forget the masses once they get in office.

If the great majority of citizens desire better services from government and greater concern from those in office, they must:

1. Register to vote in larger numbers.
2. Vote by the thousands in all elections.
3. Keep informed about government and their elected representatives.
4. Contact them at different times and demand better services from them.
5. Encourage their neighbors to register and to vote.
6. Vote their conscience and not be bought by some politicians.
7. Insist that their ministers, priests, and rabbis address themselves to social, economic, and political issues, at various times in their sermons; and provide the leadership needed in those troubled times. Registration to vote is free.

Call the supervisor of Elections at 396-5553 or go to the People's Court Building at Fayette and Gay St., and register to vote NOW. — ISAIAH WHITE.

For our lawmakers

Dear AFRO:

After reading several articles on the Maryland Commission On Human Relations, I question what the legislators, especially blacks, that support Civil Rights efforts are doing each year in the General Assembly.

Under the directorship of Mr. Elbert L. A. Guillory, the Commission has proven itself by effectively handling and investigating thousands of discrimination cases.

However, our state legislators have failed to pass legislation to make those who discriminate pay for violating state laws and have failed to provide hearing examiners for the cases waiting to go to public hearing.

This is my message to our elected officials: — minorities, women and handicapped persons are looking to you to support and make civil rights laws that will enhance the work done by the commission.

MARY SIMMS.

Medicaid

Dear AFRO:

I have written Governor Mandel that I am aware and as concerned as he and others are about the deficit in the Medicaid Program.

It is my belief that the programs proposed to be reduced are needed. Should they be cut, many needed services will be curtailed and will result in even higher costs in future years.

Del. John Douglass has proposed legislation to fund the anticipated $3.6 million deficit in that program.

I have urged Gov. Mandel to delay implementation of the proposed rule change for 60 days so that the legislature might have the opportunity to make up the projected deficit.

ARTHUR G. MURPHY, SR.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Murphy represents Baltimore City's 41st District in the House of Delegates.)

MLK family

Dear AFRO:

When is President Ford going to invite Martin Luther King's family to the White House to apologize? When is a congressman going to start a bill to pay his family compensation?

ELISSA WARD JOHNSON

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.

Dear Jan:

My boyfriend is 20 and I am almost 18 and we have planned to be married in March. My mother says we are too young, yet she was only 14 when she married my father. Do you think she is being fair?

OLD ENOUGH

Dear Old Enough:

Listen to mother, she is trying to help you. Perhaps because she married young is why she feels so strongly about you.

You miss out on good times and the fun of growing up with folks your own age when you marry so young.

Dear Jan:

I am 16 and engaged to a boy 17. Two months ago he met a girl at a party and has taken her out several times. However, he claims he loves me and asks me to forget about her. How can I forget about her when I am not sure there is nothing between them?

WORRIED

Dear Worried:

Forget about being engaged. Perhaps you'd be better off being friends. Engaged people don't go out on dates with others.

This should be clue enough that neither of you is mature enough to consider marriage.

Smile

There are three kinds of people: people who make things happen; others who watch things happen, and others who wonder what did happen.

Page one

Dear AFRO:

I thought that the AFRO front page format (Jan. 10, 1976), was excellent.

I was impressed to see a departure from focusing on sensational crime news or domestic altercations as headlines.

Your front page projected the image of the black press providing comprehensive coverage on all facets of news rather than selective coverage or partiality for the scandalous.

I subscribe to your comprehensive concept of news communication.

It is most informative to read articles which address issues for the development of black people.

MARTIN RILEY

(Editor's note: Headlines in the edition described above related to a survey showing rank discrimination in state jobs, cited new population figures showing black citizens are now 60 per cent of residents and related how county residents take millions from Baltimore city taxpayers).

Salute of week to 5 generations

(Editor's Note: AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons to be featured in this column. Write Salute of the Week, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203)

As America begins its celebration of its 200th birthday, members of the McQuay-Payne-Hooker-Powell families have special reason to celebrate.

For five generations members of this family group have contributed to the growth of the state and the nation.

The first generation member of the family is Mrs. Phoebe McQuay of Severna Park, who celebrated her 88th birthday in November.

The widow of Joseph McQuay, she lives alone with her dog and her flowers. However, she is an active member in the local Methodist Church in Severna Park.

She also does craft work and cooks for the Senior Citizens of Severna Park. This past Christmas she made fruit cakes for them.

For many years Mrs. McQuay was a household technician and still works two days a week. She even drives her own car.

At a recent family gathering were second generation Mrs. Jerome (Vacountess) Payne, niece, a retired school teacher; third generation, Mrs. Earl (Chlorice) Hooker, great niece, a telephone company employee; and fourth generation, Miss Kandyce Hooker, 18, great, great-niece, a sophomore at Morgan University.

Youngest members present were fifth generation, Craig Ewell, 6, great, great, great-nephew, son of Mr. and Mrs. David (Irvette) Ewell; and great, great, great-niece, Stacey Hooker, 7, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry (Lorice) Hooker.

Craig is a 1st grade student at Edgewood Elementary and Stacey is in the third grade at Harford Heights Elementary School.

Speaking for the family group, Mrs. Payne told the AFRO, "Your family philosophy is, "it takes the bitter and the sweet to make life really complete, but please try real hard to have the sweet so sweet that we can't see the bitter at all."

Further, she said, "The family has stuck together because we have a good understanding of family relations and we are very proud of that."

All members of the family reside in Baltimore city with the exception of Mrs. McQuay.

Mrs. Payne explains, "Since Aunt Phoebe likes to have her own way, we never thought that she should be any place but where she wants to be and that's down in the country.

"She will tell you real quick, 'Don't worry about me. I can take care of myself I have been by myself all my life. "(She has no children)."

Other members of this five-generation family are long-time members of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Baltimore.

5 GENERATIONS — Eighty-eight-year-old Mrs. Phoebe McQuay, second from left, is surrounded by members of family. From left, Mrs. Yacountess Payne, Craig Ewell, Mrs. Chlorice Hooker, Stacy and Kandyce Hooker.

If YOU ask ME ——— by bettye moss

People being kind — Almost the entire choir turned out for Saturday morning last rites for Miss Mary Virginia Morris.

She was the retired school principal who volunteered her time at St. James Episcopal Church, where she was a beloved and longtime member.

Three associate ministers assisted the rector, Father Donald O. Wilson.

In his eulogy, Father Wilson was visibly moved when he spoke of Miss Morris as 'a dedicated and devoted servant' of Christ, and "one who was a very disciplined and practical person, who was a tremendous influence on all of us . . . it will take 10 people to fill her shoes."

Musical tributes included "There Is A Balm in Gilead," with Sylvester Graves as soloist; and at the Friday evening wake, "The Lord's Prayer," by Miss Yvette Matthews.

Maurice Murphy at the organ provided beautiful accompaniment for the soloists and for the choir selections.

Cuff note; Miss Morris was 84 and just a bright and cheerful person, helping wherever and whenever she could. She lived a long and useful life.

Here for the funeral was 87-year-old Mrs. Mary Wiley who flew from Columbus, Ohio.

Also here — Kelly Evans. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Evans, are also cousins. The senior Mr. Evans, was formerly governor of the Virgin Islands. They were living here in Baltimore, are now at home in St. Croix. The younger Evans attends Howard University.

More people being kind to others: A large crowd turned out on Monday evening for wake services, also at St. James for Robert T. Tarter.

He was also a longtime member of the parish. Many knew him as the friendly barber and good neighbor. Remember when his shop was in the 1500 block W. Franklin St.?

As we stood on the porch of the church, a young man walked up and asked "do you write for the AFRO?": He volunteered this information — "you won't have a hard time writing about Mr. Tarter. He was a very fine man. There's a many a one of us out here today who wouldn't be anything if he hadn't taken an interest in us as young boys.'

Papa Tarter's own fine family of 5 sons and 2 daughters attest to the love and help he gave his own children, but isn't it nice when others remember and say their thanks too! Special thinking of you cards to Mr. Tarter's wife of 69 years, Mrs. Florence Carey Tarter. She resides at St. James Terrace Apartments. She was just a wonderful picture of courage at his last rites . . . standing straight and tall!

Card note: — One of the most original Yule cards received this year was a huge orange one with picture of a typical family on the front. It was from the Rev. and Mrs. E. D. Meade.

It was designed by their niece, Camellia Blackwell. She is on the faculty at Lake Clifton High and who is doing graduate work at Md. Institute.

Notes from the back of an envelope: At Chi Delta Mu's benefit dinner theatre, (for its scholarship porgram) a Sunday ago, the lucky ticket holders included Mrs. Trudy Edwards. She promptly returned her winnings to the scholarship fund. Wasn't that thoughtful!

On the mend at home is Mrs. Amy Tate Billingsley. She had minor surgery at Provident Hospital last week. She is the author-educator and wife of Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president of Morgan State University.

Also on the mend — Mrs. Shelton Coles (Marjorie), who remains in Provident Hospital. Her hubby is recuperating at their Gwynns Falls Pkwy home. Both were in Provident.

Glad you are better cards to Mrs. Elsie Minor Redd. She's out of Provident, convalescing at home of her daughter, Mrs. Drunell Cottman.

Visitor in our gates, Mrs. Jantha Rose, Nashville, Tenn., visiting with Mrs. Paul Henderson (Elizabeth). She's a cousin of Mr. Henderson, who is undergoing tests at Md. General Hospital

More people doing nice things for others. The Que-Ettes of Pi Omega, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity showered the 83 residents at the Jewish Convalescent Home with practical gifts recently.

They traveled from room to room, visiting each patient and leaving a package. They played carols via tapes.

Que-Ettes who made the visit were, Mrs. Robert (Ruby) Gill, Mrs. James (Kathryn) Grant, Mrs. Melvin (Bettye) Fox, Mrs. James (Ruby) Murray, Mrs. Walter (Frances) Gill, Mrs. Elwood (Leslie) Shockley, and co-chairpersons, Mrs. Alvin (Hazel) Parks, and Mrs. James (Ponjola) Priest.

People moving about: Mrs. Anna G. Bennett spent the recent holiday in Mesa, Arizona, with her son. Her sister, Mrs. Susie B. J. Reid, reports she's still singing the praises of Far West hospitality.

Thinking-of-you cards to these sick and shut-ins:

Mrs. Frances Allen, Carver Home; Elmer Burgess, Valley View Nursing Home; Mrs. Bertha Byrd, 205 Amity St.; Samuel Smith, University Hospital; Mrs. Bertha Chatman, 1701 Eutaw Pl.; Mr. Mildred Carter, 139 S. Monastery Ave.;

And Hawthorne Smith, 6114 Old Frederick Road; Mrs. Cora Stevenson, 4618 Pall Mall Road, and Mrs. Joyce Smith, Sinai Hospital.

NOWADAYS ——— by bill riley

"SEE, JOHN JUNIOR, IF YOU'D CONTINUED YOUR SCHOOLING LIKE I TOLD YOU YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE HANGING AROUND STREET CORNERS."

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 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and speak directly to AFRO-Line.

QUESTION: I attended a church banquet on Saturday at a downtown hotel. It was due to begin at 4 p.m. At 5 p.m., they brought in the salad and dessert. Later, they said they ran out of food. They brought string beans, poorly cooked, and chicken, which was not done.

We paid $10 each. It was a disgrace, and I am so disgusted. Another black group was having a meeting in the hotel at the same time. One of their guests told me they ran out of food. What can be done about this?

— H. R.

ANSWER: A spokesman for the hotel advised AFRO-Line he had made a thorough investigation of the charges mentioned in this letter. He recalled one guest had called the hotel chain vice president to offer a similar complaint.

Further, he stated, the beans were only slightly cooked because the chef is Austrian. In the future, he promised, vegetables will be thoroughly cooked if that is guests' preference.

However, he said, he inspected plates and found no evidence of raw chicken. In addition, he revealed, he checked with the lady who booked and paid for the event and she advised him everything was fine.

As to the delay in serving the meal, the spokesman said that was a matter beyond the hotel's control. The meeting ran beyond time for service.

As for running out of food at the second affair, the spokesman said, this was a buffet affair and food was plentiful.

He added: "There must be some misunderstanding. If I can speak to the lady I will apologize for the beans, I would like to invite her to lunch and sit down with her.

"We have been in business for 11 years and would like to stay in business. We are not here to make enemies."

(Editor's note: AFRO-Line hopes the reader will accept the invitation and will let AFRO-Line know what new reaction she gets.

QUESTION: In this day of women's lib and everything, I feel that what I am about to say is quite appropriate and acceptable. I think Del. Larry Young is the finest and most suitable man in Baltimore. He's what you call a real gentleman . . . one who would make any woman proud that she knows him.

Tell me, how old is Del. Young? What is his astrological sign? What are his favorite pastimes and what are his future ambitions?

— R. M.

ANSWER: Del. Young told AFRO-Line that he is 25-years-old. He is a Sagittarian, and he spends his time (regretfully) reading. As to his future ambitions he simply said, "No comment."

Mr. C. T.: AFRO regulations require signatures and addresses for all letters to the editor. Your interesting letter of December 31 does not conform to our regulations.

Let us have your full name and address and we will publish your comments.

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 RELATION'S 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 — Resulting from robberies or assaults — 539-5340.

DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-8905.

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, bulky trash pickup.

INFORMATION — City Jail 396-5211 — Drug Abuse Counseling, 396-2720 — Job, 383-5468 — Legal Aid, 539-5340 — Pension Reform, 962-3914, Transit and Traffic, 396-3049.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6084 — Greater Homewood, 396-4060 — Northwest, 396-0224 — Steuart Hill, 396-6207.

POLICE — emergency, 222-3333 — community relations, 396-2710 — for problems at night or on weekends, 396-2244, or Homicide 396-2721.

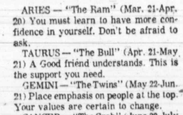
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — for complaints about phone or gas and electric services, 383-2374.

RAPE CENTER — 388-RAPE

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-2111 — Animal Removal, 396-0218 — Defective Sidewalk, 396-3108 — Food Stamps, 234-7751, 234-2413 — Furnace Check — 396-5429 — Rats, 396-4418.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 234-4700.



ARIES — "The Ram" (Mar. 21-Apr. 20) You must learn to have more confidence in yourself. Don't be afraid to ask.

TAURUS — "The Bull" (Apr. 21-May 21) A good friend understands. This is the support you need.

GEMINI — "The Twins" (May 22-Jun. 21) Place emphasis on people at the top. Your values are certain to change.

CANCER — "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) Be patient. Things are working out slowly, but in the end all will be well.

LEO — "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23.) Look beneath the surface for answer you seek, and then act cautiously.

VIRGO — "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) You are in a good position but think of the consequence. Check Capricorn.

LIBRA — "The Balance" (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Complete the job started Time is on your side. A Leo has word for you.

SCORPIO — "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Your health comes first. Let other desires wait.

SAGITTARIUS — "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 22) Your new endeavor is most important. Keep records straight.

CAPRICORN — "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Increase your sense of humor. You will find working more fun.

AQUARIUS — "Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) In the future place more value on your possession. Your lost article will be found.

PISCES — "The Fish" (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Harmony within the family can be a reality, if you try a little harder. Look for help from a Gemini.