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., 1860-1922. 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)

Let's go to court

We've not put much stock in the enforcement role played by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare where desegregation is involved, but Maryland and Baltimore officials can't be quite as dumb about what is being asked of them as they make out.

More and more we get the feeling that Gov. Marvin Mandel, at the state college level, and Mayor Schaefer, at the local public school level, are willing to gamble on losing millions of dollars in federal funds because, as they say, those who would suffer most are black students and some poor whites.

Shockingly, the federal court judge, who appears quite friendly to the arguments of state and city officials, also seems to be giving overdue attention to the fact that minority and poor students would be hurt most by a fund cutoff.

Very little is being said by these officials about the need for Maryland colleges and Baltimore public schools to desegregate within reasonable limits.

What we hear from Mayor Schaefer, other than his dumb play, is that Baltimore has gone about as far as it can.

What the state's argument really boils down to, stripped of its dumb act, is that it drew up a plan which HEW accepted but now Maryland doesn't know what it is that Maryland promised to do—probably without ever thinking it would be called upon to live up to its own proposal.

Neither state nor city would have to do anything more had it not been for federal court rulings that forced a lax HEW to act. HEW really may not be too clear on what is required.

For that reason, it is welcome news that the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or some other group, is looking at the option of going to court over the state's and city's failures.

With the case in court we won't have to be concerned with the anti-busing congressional restrictions placed on HEW. In the courts we also won't have to worry about whether our state and city officials are just playing dumb about what is required of them—or if they are for real.

The biggest mistake the state and city made was to defy HEW, an agency which has a record of being about as laggard on desegregation enforcement as they are. Surely the issue could have been negotiated without the multi-million dollar gamble.

Park Board delay

The Board of Recreation and Parks has had an acting president for too long and it is time that Mayor Schaefer took seriously the spirit of the Julian Ordinance regarding holdover appointees and named a board president.

Members of the board are Samuel Hopkins, acting president; Uthman Ray Jr., Grover McCrea, Miss Ann F. Schepper and Harry Kaufman.

Hopkins was named last summer after the death of Mrs. M. Richmond Farring.

The idea behind the City Council legislation sponsored by Dr. Emerson R. Julian is that heads of departments and boards be Baltimore residents and be appointed or reappointed with sufficient dispatch by the mayor that they are not kept dangling in suspension.

Not only should Mayor Schaefer get about the business of appointing a president for the board but he also should keep in mind the dearth of black residents who hold such key posts.

OTHER VOICES SAY

Writing off a nation

We sincerely hope that Rep. John Burton, D-Calif., doesn't someday regret very much a sweeping statement he made at a recent press conference.

"Angola does not mean a thing to the future of this country," Burton declared.

That's a daring statement to make, writing off as it does an entire nation and its people as insignificant and inconsequential.

For one thing, it is quite obvious the Soviet Union doesn't hold a similar view and has ambitions in Angola.

For another, it has to make other countries who look to the United States for leadership and assistance wonder whether they someday may be just as grandly written off. (From the Houston Chronicle.)

No teasing

A Candidate for city commission in Tallahassee has found that it is hard to keep income at pace with outgo during a political campaign, as Hubert Humphrey and others could have told her.

Complying with the law, she reports $12 from one supporter and $5 from another for a total of $17. Expenses, however, have outstripped this to a total of $21 — for four visits to Opal's Hair Fashions.

(From the Miami Herald.)

AFRO credo

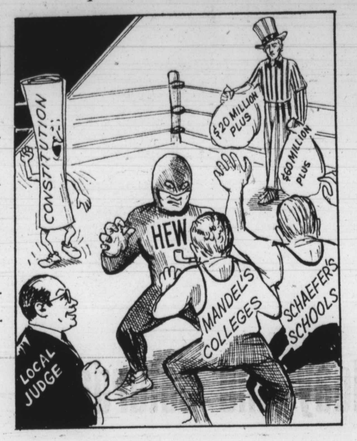
A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

- 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 poor will hurt if we lose it



The young beat — *by larry young*

How to get better neighborhoods

(This is the second of a two articles on this subject by Mr. Young, who is the youngest member of the Maryland House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore City's 38th District, which encompasses the inner city.)

As one looks at any city in this country, almost regardless of size, it becomes evident that the housing patterns have a distinct similarity. Fringe areas of the city and the suburbs are populated by the city's merchants, executives, middle management types and skilled tradesmen.

The city area is composed of retirees, young people just entering the job market, the unskilled and single-head households. As one looks at the two groups it becomes easy to see that a difference in housing is not so strange a situation.

The problem we are facing today is how to preserve our housing stock as clean, pleasant places to live.

There appears to be three levels which need discussion: "good" neighborhoods in which there are isolated instances of homeowners not taking care of their property; areas that are in a transition where the number of deteriorating homes is beginning to proliferate and the areas of the city called the core, or inner city.

A general assumption is often made that everyone wants to live as "we" do. However, it has to be remembered that this is not always the case. Desirable, well-kept neighborhoods will from time-to-time have residents, while able to afford the housing and maintenance, who just don't feel it is important to them. The answer to this problem lies with the neighborhood association.

In cases where there is violation of zoning or health codes — your city government must be involved. If there is no actual violation of zoning or health codes, then there is very little City Hall can do, but the pressure that can be brought by one's own neighbors through an effective and well-organized association will, in most cases, alleviate the problem.

If for no other reason than this, neighborhood associations need to exist. Councilman Michael Mitchell says, "this is one of the toughest problems to solve — we need the help of an association."

The transition neighborhood presents a different situation.

Here we have three general problem types: individuals who wish to do something about upgrading their housing, but are prevented from doing so because of the difficulty in obtaining home improvement loans; apartment owners who are taking older homes and dividing them into multiple family dwellings (such action tends to maintain the property but does bring in a more transient population into the area) and more of the individuals who rank home maintainence low in their priority scale.

Fortunately, the large group who have heretofore been unable to secure home improvement financing will now be able to do so. Contact the Department of Housing and Community Development or look at your Black Business Directory for a realtor you desire.

The multiple-family dwelling in this transition area will reflect the caliber of the single-family units. In order to attract the most responsible tenant, which is what the landlord looks for first and foremost, he will need to keep his property on par with the rest of the area.

Now, with a strong base of well-kept single-family units and an additional base of large homes converted into desirable apartments, the property values will remain high, which will tend to discourage an influx of property buyers who are looking for cheap, marginal housing.

The additional government involvement in this kind of an area is minimal — a loan program plus normal neighborhood improvements will suffice. However, it is extremely vital that improvements such as streets, sidewalks, curbs and decorative street lights be installed throughout the affected area so as not to leave unimproved pockets within the area.

The inner-city housing blight is by far the most difficult to handle. The reasons for this are two-fold: the property has been neglected the longest and zoning changes and property use are driving out the most desirable tenants and owners.

One positive move which the City of Baltimore has initiated, and one which has proved to be successful on the East Coast, is an urban homestead program. Any condemned structure scheduled for demolition may be acquired for $1 if the new owner agrees to bring it "up to code."

It must be remembered that there will always remain in cities a section of more modest housing. this is necessary in order for there to be affordable housing for as many people as possible. This does not mean, however, that the lower rented areas need be dirty, untidy and run-down.

The grand addy of neighborhood associations which really encouraged me to become active in civic affairs is the Harlem Park Neighborhood Council — the forerunner in residents' bonding together to solve "immediate" neighborhood problems.

The neighborhood association which finds itself with such a problem needs to assist and convince those individuals in the block that it is in everyone's interest to clean-up and fix-up their property.

Why can't we have AFRO Clean Blocks in every part of Baltimore? Government cannot creat an attitude change. Changes in goals, outlook and responsibility must come from within the people. And when a majority of the attitudes change, the block will change and eventually the neighborhood will change, also.

But this will not happen quickly. Progress will not be measured in days and weeks, but in months and years. Short-run answers are usually not permanent solutions. This is why strong continuity of neighborhood associations is necessary. They are infinitely more important than government can ever hope to be.

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

A stiff story about Vietnam

Listening in on a late night talk show, I happened to hear General Westmoreland, commander of troops in Vietnam, bemoan the fact that there was no effort by the U.S. during those harrowing years in Vietnam to beat the drum loudly enough so that we could have stemmed the "red tide" of Communism.

And then I picked up a copy of Forbes Magazine, and in its Jan. 15 edition there was an article under the all too misleading title "Yankee, Come Back!," that finally gives the real reason for the war that we all guessed about intimated, etc, but never, ever heard the government level about.

According to Forbes:

"Only nine months after Americans were scrambling onto transport planes (in living color) . . . a number of our largest companies are talking to attentive Communists about reestablishing trade, industrial development and even tourism in Vietnam . . . The idea boggles most minds and sickens many stomachs. But the prospects . . . are excellent, mainly for one big reason — oil."

The writer expands, "Shell and its 50 per cent partner in the Vietnam project, Cities Service — both hungry for new crude supplies here — were lured into the South China Sea of the U.S. government and the old Republic of Vietnam in 1973. The hope was that oil revenues would prop up the Vietnamese government."

Now you see why 50,000 died and hundreds of thousands were maimed, wounded, imprisoned and displaced.

This infamy has caused the so-called deserters and war resisters to be villified unjustly. They are perhaps the true heroes who should be vindicated.

With the Frank Church and Otis Pike committees in Washington, eager to tell almost all about the CIA's covert operations; its interference into the governments of other countries; its escalation of the war in Vietnam and now Angola; Henry Kissinger's penchant and maniacal need for secrecy in our pacts with other countries, it is no wonder in the light of what happened in Vietnam that the public is leary of any statements or promises made by President Gerald Ford.

Moreover, it was this same credibility gap that clipped Lyndon B. Johnson's wings. It is the same wolf in sheep's clothing that replaced Richard Nixon and the Watergate gang.

It is the same incredulous climate that paralyzes the voters into inaction.

Because, it is like the caption under a cartoon in the New Yorker, where a bewildered viewer watches a TV news commentator calmly intone:

"Closing averages on the human scene were mixed today. Brotherly love was down two points, while enlightened self-interest gains a half. Vanity showed no movement, and guarded optimism slipped a point in sluggish trading.

"Over all, the status quo remained unchanged."

It is against this background that we need to become active voters and protesters.

More than ever our staying away from the polls, at this time in history, will lead us deeper into dictatorship.

We alone hold the power to stem the "brown shirt" tide of facism.

'WHAT HEADACHE?'

(FROM THE NEW YORK POST)

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)

Now and then

Robeson, Mitchell

By G James Fleming

On the very day that Paul Robeson, the celebrated vocalist, was being "funeralized" in New York City, over 1,000 men and women were paying well deserved honor to Clarence Mitchell Jr., in Washington, D.C., in recognition of Mr. Mitchell's 25 years as Washington bureau chief of the NAACP.

At both the funeral and the Mitchell testimonial luncheon, there were "name" people.

The world of music and the theatre remembered Mr. Robeson, as did also just "the common people," to whom he was hero both as pioneering artist and as civil rights fighter and activist.

At the Mitchell affair, government and the civil service were in evidence, but there was also a sprinkling of men and women who "just love Clarence."

But, in Washington, a message came from the President, and was read by a presidential assistant; similarly from the secretary of defense and the mayor of the District of Columbia.

Among the attenders were persons with the rank of ambassador and there was at least one senator and one representative (many more Congressmen were kept away as they mounted their forces to override the presidential veto of the HEW bill).

Although Mr. Mitchell was lauded for the hard-fisted operator which he has been in civil rights matters, there was every sign that he enjoyed "approval," that he had operated "within the system" (at least most of the time), and that he and his organization were tolerated and respected, if not loved.

No such toleration or understanding of Paul Robeson.

Although Mr. Mitchell undoubtedly brought about more fundamental change in America than did Mr. Robeson, although he shook things up more he is now a U.S. ambassador to the UN, named by a Republican President, and often he is respectfully referred to as the 101st Senator.

Mr. Robeson, on the other hand, suffered the loss of his opportunity to sing or act, or to make money or to serve his country. During his last years of active life, his circumstances were similar to those of a victim in a totalitarian system who finds all doors and avenues closed to him.

No producer wanted Paul Robeson, the electronic media would not use him or his recordings, concert halls would not sponsor him. Without being banished to a Siberia, he was experiencing Siberia just the same — worse than Siberia to a mind and spirit such as Robeson's.

This column is not contrasting Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Robeson, and their acceptability to the powers that be, from the viewpoint of "good guys, bad guys," or even of militant v. non-militant. Rather, we are interested here in "style," in differences in approach, in inborn disposition (if there is such a thing as the latter).

Both the Mitchells and the Robesons of the land have a similar commitment and dedication "to help my people," or "to expand the base of democracy," or "to make American ideals real." None of these types will "sell out" his people or his cause; both are honest; both would go to jail; both would give their life, if really necessary.

Because of their emotional gifts, however, they follow the style of a Mitchell or of a Robeson. And each type pays a price, sooner or later, and each gets its reward, early or in history.

Nature seems to demand both types and the organizations they represent.

Clarence Mitchell has fought presidents, senators, representatives and the giants of labor, but he won their respect because he always dealt in facts, because he did not hit "below the belt," because he found ways to make "the system" work for his constituents.

He was never refused an audience by a president, but he also stopped a president from making shoddy appointments to the Supreme Court.

The thunderous ovation paid Ambassador Mitchell at his glittering testimonial spoke for itself.

I remember Robeson singing "Ballads for Americans" at a rally for war bonds during World War II, with all the "right people" present and applauding.

He is also remembered, however, for speaking for friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the USA, and for peace. In other words, Robeson was for "detente" many years before Nixon and Kissinger were ready, although Kissinger was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize!

It was fitting that Robeson, in death, received the tributes of the thousands who viewed his body and later attended (or tried to attend) his funeral service.

It was fitting, too, that leading papers of the country did some of their best recent writing, in news and editorials, on the life of Robeson. Several, commendably, wished that our country might have been big enough and broad enough to accommodate Robeson, citizen and artist, rather than to punish him.

There should be room in America for the Mitchells and the Robesons. We must learn to appreciate differences in "style" — style and temperament.

"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

Reason to celebrate

Dear AFRO:

This July 4 the United States of America will celebrate 200 years of freedom.

As a black citizen I asked myself what does this mean to me and 20 million or more like me? I can not answer for all, neither will I try to be a spokesman for all.

It was said to me that we, as black Americans, have nothing to celebrate and should not take part in the Bicentennial. I personally feel that we blacks have as much to celebrate as others.

In spite of the burning at the stakes, humiliation of Jim Crow laws, disenfranchisement of our male citizens, slander and degrading of our women, I am still an American citizen.

I will not forget Nathan Hale or Paul Revere. I will not forget Lexington and Concord, Washington, Jefferson, Patrick Henry, John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys, General Lee, General Grant or Abe Lincoln.

I will not forget the Alamo, the Maine, Pearl Harbor, Korea or Vietnam.

I will not forget segregation, discrimination in housing and job opportunities. I am still an American.

I can not forget Little Rock, South Boston, Mississippi and others. I am still an American.

It is the Dred Scott decision that I really should celebrate.

I am thoughtful and thankful for these reasons. We have reduced illiteracy of black Americans by 75 per cent. We have written some 100 books, we have nearly 300 newspapers, we have over 5,000 lawyers and a coresponding number of doctors. We have over 600,000 acres of land in the South.

We have mayors of large cities and small towns. We have representatives in politics national, and local.

We may not have scored high, we have scored higher than ever before, and the end is not yet.

There is still work to be done

There is still hopes to be realized.

There is still challenges to be met.

There is still goals to be attained, not by preacher and teacher of dispair.

By dreamer who can work, workers who can do.

Men and women who want a better life for themselves and their children.

Yes, I'm still an American. These are the things that I am —

I was conceived in freedom and God willing, in freedom I will spend the rest of my days.

May I possess always the integrity, the courage, the strength to keep myself unshackled.

To remain a citadel of freedom and a beacon of hope always.

This is my wish, my goal, my prayer in this year of 1976, 200 years after I was born.

WILSON H. BURNS

Job jim crow in schools?

Dear AFRO:

Is there discrimination within the Baltimore City public school system?

I ask this question because at the top of the system's hierarchy are two offices — the Superintendent, and the President of the School Board.

One appears to be for "blacks" only, while the other seems to be for "whites" only. The position of superintendent is consistently filled by blacks, while that of president of the School Board is consistently filled by whites.

This hints at a desire by some for a one-sided power structure in the school system, with one race holding the bulk of that power.

For it is true that the Superintendent's post is little more than a "rubber stamp" for the school board, with the board president controlling both, the board and the Superintendent. Indeed, Dr. Patterson can attest to this fact.

Remembering that our young people have one prime virtue — a love of truth, it can be no wonder that some of them are rebellious, when they hear the administration espousing school integration on the one hand, while practicing job discrimination on the other.

Such acts are not only oppressive, but are also contradictions to the truth of democracy. And young people detest these untruths.

FRANK G. NEWTON

On clout

Dear AFRO:

Some say that with enough political "clout," cities and states throughout this land can get aid for the poor and needy.

Maryland has 189 elected officials in Annapolis and 21 in Baltimore. Yet the majority of the 537 elected officials in Washington pay no heed to the serious housing problems of the poor and needy of Baltimore.

Needless to say, the majority of the poor in need of decent housing are black and the problem is nationwide.

Throughout the U.S. there are 18 black elected officials at the federal level, 275 at the state level, 211 at the county level, and 1,154 at the municipal level. With the black political "clout" plus other elected officials who really care about the poor of this nation, it would seem that this problem could be solved.

"Give me your poor," etc. I suppose it boils down to how and where the poor come from.

CHARLES R. CURTIS JR.

Sweet talk about a subway may hurt black citizens unless they use options

By Walter R. Dean Jr.

(This is the second in a series of articles on the proposed mass transit for Baltimore city. The first article was by City Councilman Michael Mitchell. Del. Dean, author of this article, represents Baltimore city's 41st District in the Md. General Assembly. Other elected officials and readers are invited to share their views with AFRO readers.)

Del. Walter R. Dean Jr.

There are two issues involved.

Is the subway good for Baltimore City? Is it good for blacks in the city? The answers are not necessarily the same.

On the surface it appears that a rapid transit (subway) system is good for black people. The system is a high-speed train that will run from Reisterstown Plaza or the Beltway to the Charles Center.

It will carry riders quickly and inexpensively. It will provide jobs and easy access to sources of employment.

But what does that have to do with black people? Very little.

In fact, it can be dangerous unless the community takes a very close look at the proposed subway system and urges changes that will benefit it.

"First, the subway is not a mass transit system. By mass, I mean a system that will be available to most people conveniently and easily.

The subway system is designed to carry relatively few people through a small part of the northwest area. Baltimoreans will need a bus system that will carry many around the city.

Secondly, the subway system will not open up job opportunities for low-income or black workers.

The subway is designed to feed white-collar workers into the downtown area.

It is obvious that black people have scant job possibilities in the downtown business district. At the other end, the county and its developed industrial parks have very poor records for hiring blacks.

Black people live between the dominant employment markets and the subway system as designed is irrelevant to their transportation needs.

In fact, the financial emphasis upon a subway system only serves to increase the immobilization of black workers and helps to contain them within their own boundaries.

Third, an increase in the tax base may be meaningless. An increase in assessed land near the subway stops may develop in the pockets of private persons, not the public treasury.

Another factor is that any increase in assessments caused by the construction of a subway system may be offset by the increased taxes needed to build the subway system.

In Atlanta, Washington, and San Francisco, the final costs for building a subway system nearly doubled the original costs. The original subway plan would have cost $657 million. If the original subway were built today, it would cost $2 billion.

The reduced subway system will cost around $800 million — and that is a lot of money!

Black people must remember that although $800 million may stimulate the economy of Maryland and Baltimore city, black residents may be by-passed.

Fourth, the subway system will increase the isolation and economic deprivation of the black community within the metropolitan area.

The subway system will perform the same function as the East-West highway: it will make it easy for middle-class professionals and white-collar workers to live further away, (where housing is cheaper), from the central business district and still get to work within 30 minutes.

A major by-product will be the continued enrichment of the Metropolitan area, the increased availability of talent from the counties into the city, and the continued entrapment of the poor, the elderly, and the black into declining communities.

One major demand within the black community is equality in access to goods and services, and to opportunity. The subway system will enhance black social, economic and political inequality.

The white businessman and shopper gains advantages by coming into the city that are not afforded to black people from the city in the counties.

For example, it is far easier for county whites to compete with city blacks for jobs in the city than for city blacks to compete with county whites in the county.

Finally, the subway system helps to rationalize the boundaries between the haves and the have-nots.

And fifth, the rapid transit system as planned, developed, and on the verge of construction, is another steps towards the institutionalized reduction of potential black political power within Baltimore City.

Unless we have a share in the control of public investments such as the subway system, we lose significant power.

Included in the arrangement is the power to determine whether or not the average resident of Baltimore city will benefit from a more efficient bus sytem.

Also included is the power to determine under what circumstances will scarce resources be used: for a subway system or for improved housing and job training opportunities for young workers.

The black community has not had a major say in those decisions that would lead to political empowerment, economic stability, or social advancement.

What is at stake is the institutionalization of metropolitan patterns that will assure that black people will not control or dominate politically, economically, or socially the life of Baltimore city.

Most black people intuitively understand what is happening when they whisper that "the man" is coming back to the city; and black voters may also feel that in spite of numerical dominance, they are an electoral minority.

As the rules are now being played, blacks are outside the patterns of decision-making that determine how and under what circumstances major decisions affecting the City will be made.

What next?

First, dismiss the notion that most of the subway riders will be black. The system was designed to transport countians to the central business district.

Secondly, dismiss the notion of automatic black economic gains. Community patterns must be changed to assure black gains.

What must the community do?

If the subway be constructed, (and most people believe that the city has invested too much money and time not to build the system), then black residents have the following options:

1. Black leaders must meet with the Department of Transportation and the Mass Transit Authority to have an open discussion about the viability of a subway system. Negotiations must be undertaken to ascertain how and under what circumstances will the subway pass through black community.

2. Black people must gain more control over the MTA. Presently there is much arrogance against the black community and no black person has any authority in the agency. Black input into MTA is negligible.

3. There must be more control over the planning process. Black citizens in the Rogers Ave. area do not want a subway stop. A better site would be Belvedere Ave. Guess who is getting a subway stop?

4. An aggressive, affirmative action plan must be developed with black people obtaining the first 50 per cent of all line jobs and black businesses being given a certain proportion of all contracts.

The Minority Contractors Resource Center, of Washington, would be an excellent model for Baltimore City. The center aggressively seeks minority participation in the construction of the D.C. Metro rail system.

5. Veto power over the subway construction should be developed. After all, the real issue is who shall control? Black people should not have to pay through the nose for a subway that will not benefit them.

The subway system is the example of a public investment that must gain the close attention of the black community.

The problems of racism and poverty are growing very fast in the community. Nearly every day the newspapers report the cutting of some program that benefits the masses of black people.

The real issue is not whether or not we are for a subway system; but what schemes, alternatives and programs can black people devise to make an assault, or frontal attack, or major problems within the community.

Sweet talk about a subway system may find the citizens of Baltimore faced with a financial monstrosity.

However, total community involvement may help to create a subway that will benefit all citizens, not just the chosen few.

Dear Jan:

My boyfriend and I get along perfectly but he insists on keeping our going together a secret. We love each other very much. Why should we keep it a secret? I want to tell everyone.

BIG MOUTH

Dear Big Mouth:

It is quite possible that there is some other "steady" in the background. On the other hand, he may not want to be teased by the fellows.

Dear Jan:

I am 13 and I go steady with a girl 13. The trouble is that she sees too many other boys. What should I do?

CONFUSED

Dear Confused:

Forget the going steady. Just be friends. At your age, neither should be serious. You have plenty of time to engage in one-boy, one-girl relation-

4'S AND YOU

ARIES — "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) You may be slightly disappointed but the hardest part is over.

TAURUS — "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) One person is occupying most of your time. Be a little less timid.

GEMINI — "The Twins" (May 2-June 21) Get out of the rut and catch up on your mail. Someone is waiting to hear from you.

CANCER — "The Crab" (June 21-July 23) More patience is needed. Things aren't as bad as they appear.

LEO — "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) Relax a little. All work and no play will cause you to miss something important.

VIRGO —"The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) Your ambitions may be fulfilled but you must plan carefully.

LIBRA— "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) A large social function is forthcoming. Relax and tension will disappear.

SCORPIO — "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Watch your jokes. Some folk are extremely sensitive.

SAGITTARIUS — "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You must have confidence in yourself. You will have fewer problems.

CAPRICORN — "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) This is a good week for you. Don't forget to include a close friend.

AQUARIUS — "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 20) Complete this project before you start another. You aren't quite ready yet.

PISCES — "The Fish" (Feb. 21-March 20) Revenge is sweet, but be careful.

Register

So you can vote in the Primary Election on May 18, 1976.

LAST DAY to REGISTER is April 19, 1976.

You may register by mail by using the form in this paper to apply for Application to Register, or at the Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts., Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NOWADAYS — *by bill riley*

"DOCTOR, I BELIEVE HIS CONDITION IS DUE TO HIS TRYING TO TEACH ME HOW TO DRIVE A CAR."

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 postcard to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203, stating the question you want ansered. 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: The water was cut off in the 200 and 300 block of Bruce Street last week about 11 p.m. without any warning. Is this the policy of the city?

E. J.

ANSWER: A spokesman at Customer Service told AFRO-Line that the city does not cut off water without warning. She further stated that it was probably the result of frozen water meters. This happens quite often in sub-freezing weather.

QUESTION: I am presently incarcerated at Patuxent Institution. We are permitted to subscribe to other papers, but not the AFRO. A lot of inmates here are interested in receiving the paper. I am asking for a subscription.

ANSWER: A spokesman in the Superintendent's office there told AFRO-Line that your statement is untrue. "In fact," he said, "we have several persons here who receive subscriptions."

QUESTION: When I took my grandson to the Eutaw-Marshburn School, last Tuesday, the walkway was covered with ice and snow. I had to hold on to the wire and posts to keep from falling. Why do such dangerous conditions exist at the school?

M. R.

ANSWER: Mr. Owings, the principal of the AFRO that is simply a case of shortage of personnel.

He added that when the school first opened, the personnel was adequate enough to clean the snow and salt the entire area surrounding the school.

Where to call

SPECIAL NOTE: This column has been running numbers supplied by various agencies. The AFRO has learned that there have been some changes. Here is a revised list.

AFRO readers who fail to get help at these numbers are urged to let AFRO-Line know. Call 728-8200.

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 — 383-3700.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND — resulting from robberies or assaults — 523-5000.

DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-9905.

EMERGENCY — housing, heating, light — 234-2172 or 234-2412; after 6 p.m. and weekends, 234-2172, answering service will direct you.

FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2763.

FIRES — 685-1313.

HOT LINE — 539-5151 — for abandoned motor vehicles, bulk trash pickup, clogged sewers, dirty alleys and yards, garbage collection, muddy water or water leaks, street lights.

INFORMATION — city jail, 396-5211; drug abuse counseling center, 383-2720; legal aid, 539-5340; pension reform, 962-3914; transit and traffic, 396-3049.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6084; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; Northwest, 396-0224; Steuart Hill, 396-0207.

POLICE — emergency (day, night, weekends; 222-3333; community relations, 396-2710; homicide, 396-2721.

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

RAPE CENTER — 366-7273.

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188.

SERVICE — ambulance, 396-2111; animal removal, 396-0218; defective sidewalk, 396-3168; furnace check, 396-4429; rats, 396-4418.