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)

Shaking and baking

The Baltimore Colts keep shaking and baking.

Their last two games may have been the biggest of the season for Coach Ted Marchibroda and his tough young team.

Easing by Miami Monday night in a one-point thriller pretty much cinched a playoff berth for the Colts. Except for the St. Louis game it's all down hill now.

Losing to New England before the Miami game also was a biz break for the Colts, because it means the Pittsburgh Steelers have a tough row to hoe to make the playoffs.

Had Baltimore beat the Patriots they would have been 7-4 after last weekend's games, same as the Steelers. By topping Baltimore New England stood at 8-3 and was the American Conference's favorite for the wild card berth.

But the Colts, knocked out of the playoffs by Pittsburgh last year, won't know until after the games this weekend if the Steelers still loom as threats to their Super Bowl aspirations.

If Pittsburgh gets by Cincinnati this week, the Colts will have to count on Cincy beating Oakland later in the season to keep the Steelers from edging the Bengals in the Central Division.

Colt fans thinking Super Bowl for the Colts can stop worring about what the Steeds do in the next three games for division honors.

If the Steelers nose out the Bengals it'll still be possible for the Colts to make it to the Super Bowl but it will take a lot more shaking and baking than went on in that Miami cliffhanger.

Mrs. Santa needs help

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa has put on her red and white suit and started working full-speed toward helping make Christmas a merry one for hundreds of families whose circumstances promise a bleak holiday if they are not assisted.

Mrs. Santa depends upon the support of Baltimoreans whose circumstances permit them to offer a helping hand to others for her success.

This year Mrs. Santa seeks to raise more than $15,000 in addition to the assistance she provides by listing cases in the AFRO which can be adopted by individuals, families or groups.

Throughout the year distressing news of high unemployment and economic hardship has been on the front pages.

It is obvious that the need is great.

The sad letters already have begun to come in: families sleeping cold at night, missing meals and wondering what additional hardship each new day will bring.

Mrs. Santa, sponsored by the AFRO Charities, Inc., will mean the difference on Christmas day for many if her goals are reached.

Contributions to Mrs. Santa, tax deductible, may be addressed to her, Mrs. Santa, AFRO Charities, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21201.

Persons coming in to visit Mrs. Santa will find her at 622 N. Eutaw St.

Mrs. Santa and all her helpers, especially the Maryland National Guard, which annually has delivered most of the food baskets to homes, check as carefully as possible to see that only the deserving benefit from the program.

Keep watching the AFRO's case families and you'll be more impressed by the urgency of the situation faced by many among us.

Mrs Santa is counting on your help

Learning to count

Johnny may not be able to count but the youngsters in Baltimore's school system, those to young to pay taxes, must have been a bit amused last week to see how tough arithmetic is for the already-educated pros.

Simply put, although city and school officials seem to agree that 75 per cent of the $277 million school budget goes for personnel, they were having problems counting up the number of full-time employes.

The school board president, Mark K. Joseph, who insists the system is getting better, thought the total number of full-time employes stood at 12,107, a reduction from the 12,457 he thought the system had on July 1.

Charles L. Benton, city finance director and the No. 1 figures man in Baltimore, thought there were 12,765 full-time employes last week compared to 12,444 on July 1.

It later developed they all were wrong about all the figures, but not so far off they couldn't give themselves passing grades.

The big hitch was that one side included in its figures the approximately 360 school crossing guards who were transferred to the school system from the police department since the fiscal year commenced. The guards are being paid from federal funds.

The officials still aren't sure about whether there may be a difference of about 58 employes above or below their best count, but they're saying that's pretty good scoring for them — considering the size of the school system.

If they can't count up the employes the taxpayers have to pay, we may not like it but at least we have a bit better idea of the problem Johnny is having.

One other idea the taxpayers can get from all this is that while the officials have trouble with counting employes numbering fewer than 13,000 (as best we can make of their numbers), they do pretty good when talking multi-million dollar figures.

They've already agreed that the school system deficit will be a multi-million dollar one.

What occurs to the AFRO is that this high-level laying off, freezing, rehiring and shuffling of employes and dollars, is something taxpayers aren't going to be able to figure out, either.

We don't claim it's designed to confuse, but just get ready to pay the deficit. They'll let you know how much when they figure it out. And smile. You're in Charm City.

Remember the NAACP

Don't get too busy with early Christmas shopping and other holiday activities to join or renew your NAACP membership.

A local campaign to help the NAACP with its national crisis, brought on by a damage suit setback in Mississippi, proved to be one of the most successful in the nation with more than $163,000 raised.

The Baltimore membership drive, once scheduled to climax on Nov. 28, has been extended until Dec. 7.

David L. Glenn, campaign chairman, and Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, NAACP branch president, are optimistic about the outlook.

For one thing, they know Baltimore has a tradition of paying its share in support of the NAACP's leadership role in the struggle for full citizenship.

But it doesn't happen without a lot of hard work on the part of many people and the recognition of the importance of the membership campaign by the public.

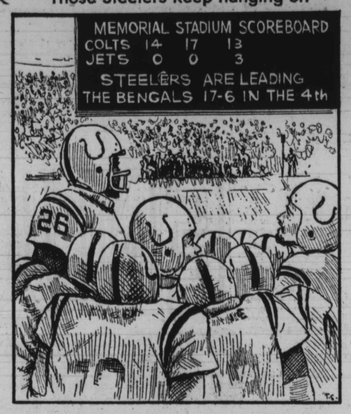
What is extremely important this year is for the public not to be confused about the two campaigns that have been conducted on behalf of the local and National NAACP.

Memberships that include the Crisis Magazine are $6, $10, $25 and $500, the latter being the life membership. The NAACP office at 1390 W. North Ave., is open 9:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. throughout the membership campaign.

The telephone number is 523-8503.

Call or drop by now and get your membership.

Those Steelers keep hanging on



An inmate's viewpoint on overcrowded prisons

By William Bryant
(The author of this article is an inmate in the Maryland Penitentiary)

Maryland's overcrowded prisons are the result of a well-orchestrated political ploy conducted by both state and prison officials. Its denouncement is Orangeville, a small state sub-division with little political clout, certainly not enough to throw the "rascals" out.

Previously sub-divisions held such political power and could approve or disapprove any plans to build a prison complex in their community.

However, Governor Mandel introduced a bill to the General Assembly last year and changed all that. This legislation may have ended the prison administrators' odyssey.

With this law to their advantage, greater emphasis was placed on the over-crowdedness, the intrinsic danger of the situation and the urgent need to eliminate it.

One jurist, sitting on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, made an assessment of the prison situation and implied that a civil suit might be necessary to resolve the matter.

The jail warden threatened to close the doors and refused to accept any more inmates, and sent the state agency a bill for feeding and housing the more than 800 convicted felons there.

Subsequently, three inmates filed a class action suit, contesting the overcrowded condition of the jail.

Presently at least 16 per cent of the prisoners have arbitrarily lost good conduct and-or industrial good time and are serving what is considered as "bad time."

For all practical purposes, these men have served their sentences and should be released — either outright or on parole.

Then there are those men with such extremely short sentences that it is almost sacrilegious to speak of overcrowded prisons and then see a person who has served more than seven (7) months on a one (1) year sentence still in the Maryland Penitentiary at cost to the taxpayers. Parole would be more feasible and cheaper.

Some inmates' sentences are too small for them to be processed through MRDCC (Maryland Reception and Diagnostic Classification Center) into the prison system. That is, these inmates are not classified to be transformed to another institution.

While prison administrators cannot control the spiralling rise in crime, they do have absolute control of prisoners being processed through the system. This process can flow smoothly and easily, be slowed down or completely stopped.

Their decision can influence a prisoner's parole, too. Through the authority of the Maryland Parole Commission, the commissioner of corrections is a principal party in the negotiation of parole contracts. The wardens can even make recommendations to him.

In the circumstances, it is a fair assumption to say prison officials manipulated the objective conditions, that is favorable legislation, overcrowdedness, and the high crime rate, to gain support for a larger budget request and for the community correctional centers; that they perpetuated the building which culminated into an almost untenable situation.

In an attempt to obscure their own inefficiency and avoid responsibility for the messy state of things, we are informed by the prison keepers that calculated projections did not portend the current influx of prisoners into the system, which accrued from the high rate of crime.

That state sub-division's continued opposition to community correction centers has worked to the detriment of correctional services' efforts.

Their public relations experts were summoned and teach-ins held to educate the sub - divisions. The increasing rate of crime was balanced against prisons bursting at the seam and what to do about it. All eyes were turned right, to the accompanied fanfare of the prison ship.

But this was a national election year. Some even said that it was the year of the Democrats, who were heavily concentrated where the ship was supposed to berth, and who had demonstrated their disapproval of its being there.

The outcome was a foregone conclusion: somebody pulled the plug on the idea of a prison ship, and it sank.

Equally as inevitable was Orangeville. It was forced to succumb to political pressure, because prisons are big business — an integral part of the state's economic structure.

By absorbing the overflow of unemployment by creating more jobs for guards, medical personnel, classification counselors, psychologists and for workers on new construction sites, prisons provide markets for commodities and equipment needed for their maintenance, and serve as a reservoir of human resource for cheap labor and guinea pig tests.

The 8 or 10 surplus trailers being purchased now can hardly relieve a system so overburdened, if we are to accept the commissioner's analysis and reports.

Nor, at the expense of the taxpayers, would it justify the overstaffed administrative supervisors.

Now and then _____ by g. james fleming

Letter to Carter's fellow Baptists

Dear Members of the Plains Baptist Church:

Please permit me to say "Many Congratulations" on your doing what you would have to do sooner or later, anyway. Thanks, too, for not continuing to be an embarrassment to your No. 1 Citizen, our next president.

More important, I hope you have taken the opening of your church doors in good spirit and that even the "onehards" will come around before too long. What you, and all of Plains, must come to know is that your lovely town is no longer a local, sleepy, homey Georgia village. By your own action, you have made it an international city.

You gave birth to Jimmy Carter; you sent him off to good education at the Naval Academy; you helped to elect him governor and, more recently, you helped to make him the soon-to-be president of the United States and "leader of the free world."

Having done all these things, you have also changed Plains, Ga. Most obviously, you have made it a magnet for motorists and other tourists, from all over the world, of all colors and races, of all religions.

Most of these will get out of their vehicles with the same objective: To sit in the pew where President Carter sits, and to wander in the Sunday school room where he teaches — or taught.

Certainly, you couldn't, you wouldn't, continue to keep your church doors closed against the world.

Then, there are black Secret Service personnel who will sometimes be accompanying the president. Of course, you would not stop them at the entrance.

As you realize by now, you could have about-faced in an easier way, without all the unfavorable headlines; but you made your choice. "God works in a mysterious way."

President-elect Carter, his mother, "Miss Lillian," and the rest of the Carters, deserve a salute for having taken a stand for open doors as far back as 1965, when it was much more difficult and dangerous to take such a stand, than in 1976.

Credit must also go to your present pastor, the Rev. Bruce Edwards, for having preached out for opening God's doors to all people, even when such preaching was against the position of the majority of his congregation.

It is good to know that he has not been made the scapegoat of the whole church-closing affair.

Now it is time for healing.

One of these days, long before President-Carter leaves the White House, visitors coming to your church will find overpowering friendliness, "Southern hospitality" in the real. They will also find a suggestive collection box in which they may contribute to a fund, not only to meet the new wear and tear on the building, but also to help the boys and girls of Plains to understand each other better; indeed, to understand all of God's children better, and to make a world in which all people can live in goodwill together, without anyone suffering, or being insulted; or being underpaid, because of race, color, religion, national background, or even sex.

Perhaps, you already know that you and your church will not be inundated by black Baptists or any other kind of blacks. It was "the principle of the thing."

Blacks prefer "the black church." It is theirs in a way that no other church has ever been to them. It has been their settlement house, their community center; their school house, the borning-place of their leaders. It is the one place where blacks are really free and independent. It is the one place where they feel, not only "safe in the arms of Jesus," but actually and physically safe — not totally, but most of the time.

One thing sure, with your doors open to all, Jesus will feel welcomed there, also.

May your 1976 Christmastide be your most Christmas ever.

Very truly yours,
G. JAMES FLEMING

A little about a lot _____ by madeline w. murphy

Carver made him what he is today

Just before the end of the Civil War, a black boy was born of slaves in Diamond Grove, Mo., who would change history far beyond his wildest dreams.

He was a genius and philanthropist, unusual at a time in history when men pirated ideas, railroads and gold mines and built empires upon the broken backs of those they robbed, exploited and discarded like cord wood.

This man was George Washington Carver.

Carver worked his way through college and received his BS from Iowa State College at Ames, and after receiving his MS in 1896, went to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Many young blacks caught fire from his genius to go on to great inventive successes.

But Carver was the creative botanist, the curious agricultural experimenter whose efforts developed and diversified the peanut and sweet potato into a multi-million dollar enterprise.

For it was George Washington Carver who broadened the uses of peanuts as soil enrichers for fields exhausted of nutrients by cotton.

And at a time when both peanuts and sweet potatoes were harvested in over abundance, he found ways to diversify their usefulness.

Since peanuts have been on our minds and lips for the last two years, it would do well for black Amrcicans to refresh their historical knowledge about how Carver diversified uses of peanuts and why South American countries fear a U.S. monopoly on the peanut market as a result of James Earl Carter's ascendancy to the presidency.

For from the peanut Carver developed cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, soap, wood stains, insulating board — over 300 products.

The evolution and prominence of the uses of peanuts today is therefore a result of the genius of George Washington Carver, who donated a modest $33,000 to Tuskegee to establish the Carver Foundation.

But what ripples have radiated from this man's genius!

He made the peanut not only swine fodder and fertilizer, but a commodity that could catapult a white man — 12 years shy about forcing God into his church via black membership into the presidency of the United States.

And when you think about it, that ain't just peanuts!

And while the pollsters are backing off about who actually elected James Earl Carter to the presidency: "One can't rightly say whether it was the collar worker, the black or a combination of unforeseen circumstance" — Jimmy Carter should praise God each night that a black man in Alabama after all made him what she is today.

People are reading

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

NONFICTION

JUDY, Gerold Frank (ML420.G253F7)
A MAN CALLED INTREPID, William Stevenson (D810.S8S78)
CHANGE LOBSTERS AND DANCE, Lilli Palmer (PN2658.P8A33)
THE ROCKEFELLERS, Peter Collier (E747.C64)
WORLD OF OUR FATHERS, Irving Howe (F128.9.J5H6)

FICTION

A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS, Cynthia Freeman
STRANGER IN THE MIRROR, Sidney Sheldon

Salute of the week

(AFRO readers are urged to submit names of persons or organizations to be used in this column. Write Salute of the Week, P.O. Box 1837, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

Our honoree this week is the Rev. Mrs. Gladys Burton Hairston, pastor and founder of the Bible Revival Deliverance, Apostolic Faith, 1400 McCulloh St.

AFRO reader who submitted the Rev. Mrs. Hairston's name, says:

"This dynamic woman works in the capacity of a mother, pastor, evangelist, teacher, counselor and church worker.

"To the members of the church, she is our leader and to her family she is a queen who can not be replaced.

"She is a constant visitor to the city jail and the Maryland Penitentiary. In spite of fulfilling her desire to help others in distress, she always has time for her family. The Rev. Mrs. Hairston is married to Elder John Hairston, who is constantly at her side.

"I would style this woman after the woman of whom Solomon spoke in Proverbs 3:10, 'Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies to the people who love her.'

"In addition, I feel the matter to describe the Rev. Mrs. Hairston's heartfelt desire in life would be, If I can help somebody along life's way, then my living will not be in vain.

The Rev. Mrs. Hairston's children are Mrs. Rose Marie Young, Frank Burton, Freddie Douglass, William Henry, a student at Morgan State; Alfred and Albert, twins who attend Booker T. Washington Junior High, and Kevin Nathan, a Eutaw-Marshburn student.

Daughter of the late John and Eliza Evans, the Rev. Mrs. Hairston was born in Asbury, N.J. where she attended school. She also went to school in Warrington, N.C. and Baltimore.

The Rev. Mrs. Hairston has four grandchildren, Shiron Holden, Donnella Holden, Dawn Young and Antoine Burton; and three sisters, Mrs. Helen Staley, Mrs. Josephine Staley and Mrs. Josephine Spruill, all of Baltimore.

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

Why not help blind home?

Dear AFRO:
If the blacks can put a president in office, why can't they take care of 13 blind persons?

If Rep. Parren J. Mitchell can do everything else, why can't he see that the Anna Mae Hunter Home for the Blind is taken care of?

Ministers raise money for everything else and do anything they want, what is wrong with them not seeing the need of a home for the blind, the only black home for the blind with poor women trying to run it? Why don't they practice what they preach?

MRS. GRACE C. ADAMS

Helped draw audience

Dear AFRO:
I want to tell you sincerely how much we enjoyed your excellent assistance in making dedication day at the Harbor Campus of the Community College of Baltimore such a success.

The advance story you gave this happy event contributed to the large audience we had at the historic occasion.

More than 350 people packed the auditorium of the north building, many of them coming as a result of your circulation. Your coverage and display of this event helped to draw the audience.

We want to thank you again for your assistance and look forward to your continued cooperation with Dr. Sidney Kobre, director of the Harbor Campus News Bureau.

RAYMOND C. BOWEN
Vice President

Excellent

Dear AFRO:
Thank you kindly for your excellent coverage of our luncheon activity. You made a real contribution to Arena Players' "Possible Dream."

CAMILLA M. SHERRARD

'Beautiful Doll' display

Dear AFRO:
Camp Fire Girls and Goodwill Industries thank you for taking time out to assist us on our first doll display. We hope that it shall be the first of many!

We welcome any comments or suggestions that you may have to help us improve the "Oh, You Beautiful Doll!" Display for 1977.

DOROTHY J. DUSTMANN
Director of Public Relations

Death penalty views

Dear AFRO:
The fundamental question of whether the state has the right to take human life is before our country once again because of U.S. Supreme Court decisions of July. There is a substantial body of belief that the state has no such right.

There is also substantial evidence that resort to capital punishment reflects a desire for revenge rather than reflecting a commitment to justice. Further, there is no conclusive evidence that the death penalty deters crime.

The death penalty falls heaviest on poor and non-white people as result of their lack of equal access to legal and other resources and as a reflection of lesser value society assigns to their lives.

While these matters are being urgently considered across the country by religious groups such as ours and by others, the nation's governors can use their powers to assure that none of the hundreds of human beings on death row die.

Governor Godwin has commuted to life imprisonment the death sentences of five prisoners on Virginia's death row. His exercise of power to do so commends itself to all other governors to take similar leadership.

MARJORIE F. SCOTT
Associate Executive Secretary
American Friends Service Committee
Middle Atlantic Region

Looking for a job

Dear AFRO:
I am 45 years old, married and having a real problem finding a job.

My mother was frequently ill and I came out of school when I was quite young in order to help with my younger brother and sister.

Therefore, I did not finish elementary school. Everywhere I go, after filling out an application, they say, "no work" and I think it is because I didn't go to high school.

I used to work with the trackmen on the railroad in 1948 and was in the army from 1951 to 1953 where I did some truck driving. For 13 years I was a crane chaser for the American Smelting and Refining Co., but they closed down in June, 1975.

The Maryland State Employment Service had jobs but they were in the county and I do not have a car to get there.

The money I was getting from the unemployment office ran out and if I don't get a job soon, I don't know what I will do. My rent and my bills will be behind.

I am willing to do any kind of laboring work, no matter how dirty or dishwashing. I catch on fast so I could learn any job if given a chance.

I am so worried and I believe in my heart that your paper can help me. I do not have a phone but I read the AFRO on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you can help me, I will read it in AFRO Line.

Please do what you can. If you can not help, I still thank you so much and may God bless you

JOHN ELEY

Who can help poor?

Dear AFRO:
I read your article on how the health department law harasses little people, and I think you are right. But, there is another problem which I think should be put in the paper.

What about the landlord and the way the tenants have to put up with living in apartments that are not fixed up the way they should be?

And, when the inspector is called, he comes out and gives you a lot of run-around and just writes things down.

Where can poor people like us turn? We don't have the money and the proper people don't do anything about the problems. The law is different for everybody. Rents are going sky high.

I called the inspector about my problem in September and I still have the same problem I had when he came.

Please do an article on where poor people can turn when the right agency won't help you.

MRS. ALLIE BUTLER

Smile

When you come to the "end of a perfect day," you must have overlooked something.

If you can't pronounce what's on the menu, chances are you can't afford it either.

Young beat _____ by larry young

A prayer at Thanksgiving time

(Mr. Young is a member of the House of Delegates. He represents the 28th District).

My goodness, how fast a year goes by. This weekend begins the festive holiday season. Mama brings out the old turkey recipes, and Madison Avenue tells the young people, "And it only costs $14.95."

People start pulling out their Christmas card lists, and Mrs. Santa begins to make her appeal for the less fortunate in our city.

Yesterday, I celebrated my 27th birthday. Sitting at the table with friends and family, I thought for just a few moments about the many things I had to be thankful for. We all have various things for which to be thankful, and Young Beat wishes to share with you just a few of the things that I am thankful for. I will call this my Thanksgiving Prayer of 1976.

T. Brooks writes — "God looks not at the oratory of your prayers, how elegant they may be; nor at the geometry of your prayers, how long they may be; nor at the logic of your prayers, how methodical they may be; but the sincerity of them he looks at." With this in mind, I am thankful for having reached and lived 27 years.

I am grateful to the nearly 500 folk who saw fit to honor me most recently for the work I am trying to accomplish as a young public servant. This effort was undertaken by a true friend and political confidant, Reginald Hill.

I suppose one of the greatest things to have happened this year that I'm thankful for was the magnificent black voter turn-out in this past presidential election. I am thankful that the voters of Maryland had the foresight to elect Jimmy Carter, Paul Sarbanes and to re-elect P.J. to Congress.

I've been working close to a year on a new concept called the Joint Center for Urban Environmental Studies. This past Oct. 21, I hosted a national briefing to unveil this to the public. I am grateful for working with some fine co-workers.

I trust that the past year has enabled me to have developed friendlier relationships with my legislative colleagues. I am thankful for the new friends I have made this year and, even more so, for the old friends who have stuck with me through thick and thin.

Thankful for my family: Even though only 27, at last count I have 63 nieces and nephews. I often feel that, as the only member of my family who is in public service, it is important that I do the very best so that my nieces and nephews can continually be proud.

I am thankful for the continual feeling I have when I enter my church, that indeed, as we rightfully should, we have a church that is determined to live with Christ and a pastor who has become one of the moral consciences of this nation.

Ah, yes, and mother, my own personal Rock of Gibraltar. My own four seasons of the year, my leaning post, my umbrella from troubles, my one true counselor on life.

And foremost I am thankful for Him who knows more about me than I know about myself; Him who has been a proven way-maker, making a way out of no way; who has seen me through thick and thin; who helps me endure all of my trials and tribulations.

I am thankful for Him who has kept my hands on the plough, oh yes, my faltering hands, and yet He keeps me from turning back. I can talk to Him in the morning, afternoon, evening, night, in the midnight hour. I am thankful that all I have to do is steal away. I am talking about my God who is my co-worker, my colleague, my family, my brother, my sister, father, mother, friend,

Young Beat wishes all of the AFRO readers a very Happy Thanksgiving, and as we count our many blessings, I earnestly pray that we will be meeting each other again this time next year through this very medium.

In concluding, let me use one of my favorite quotes by H. W. Beecher, who writes:

"If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how it would draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction. — The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings, only the iron in God's sand is gold."

Another view on the Hopkins case

By Concerned Reader

I have been a reader of this newspaper for many years and there are certain cases that hit the news which are rather difficult to keep to yourself, for instance, the recent "Hopkins decision."

This I took a special interest in and I believe I read every letter or word that was printed on this case, starting with the flag incident, the great tragedy, the decision and now the critics. I predicted it then and my feelings are exactly the same now as before the temporary insanity (ruling).

Yes, I know as everyone does, it was a terrible thing for Charles Hopkins, or anyone else for that matter, getting shot. They shot and shooting up the place; or going anywhere and shooting anyone, but let's look at it more realistically.

Here he man who tried in vain to establish his own business and boom, just like that, he was deprived of the right to do so by City Hall officials; then he attempts to get some money from the only ones he feels could help him and everyone turned a deaf ear to him and on one occasion very foolishly forces him to hang a flag on his property without his consent and disregarding his personal feelings.

I am sure somewhere along the way Mr. Hopkins saw or perhaps even visited other places such as public restaurants, grocery stores, bars, homes etc. Had probably if inspected properly, would have been closed; yet, he was deprived of his business without being able to get any top official to listen to him or offer him any support.

Now remember, some of these people were elected officials who got elected to office possibly because people like Mr. Hopkins listened to them during their campaigns for political office. He figured it was their turn to listen to him.

But instead of him being listened to, he sees his business and possibly his family being denied the right to earn a living and again the only one he can turn to is the people making their living through taxpayers and they continued to give him the run-around.

Who can he turn to now? His mind is FLIPPED. And there you are.

I saw and heard a gentleman (black) criticizing Mr. Hopkins' decision and stated he would never like to live near Mr. Hopkins again.

I think maybe he should give some thought to such a statement and give some thought to situations leading to a man's humanity that could cause the strongest to become weak.

Then again this gentleman should give some thought to the fact that Mr. Hopkins wasn't a threat to the community, mugging, raping, robbing, etc.

He was man enough to go and attempt to discuss his situation with the top officials of Baltimore City, and to all probability if someone had taken the time to listen, just like most people would even like to see his life deprived of now, this whole matter possibly would have been prevented.

Now here are two more real eyeopeners to you readers.

In the case of Anthony Blackwell, which I also consider a terrible as well as a very, very sad case, it seemed the only relief to the public in general was in killing Blackwell, or rather setting an example.

Being very honest about it, the only real example I would really have seen would have been a black person being legally killed for killing another black, which I feel should be the right thing to do if a person is found guilty without a shadow of doubt.

But, back to the Blackwell case. I have read the entire case over and over again and I haven't read yet where (things might have been different) if the police sergeant handling the case would have arrested Blackwell when he accused first made a direct threat of his intentions to the sergeant, and he had every right to do this.

In such a case the accused possibly would have had a change of thought and six lives could have been saved.

Last but not least, a few days after the Blackwell incident a sniper tried to shoot up the entire Baltimore City Police Department down Lombard at Carey Streets and didn't even get injured.

This also caused a slight misunderstanding among some of the officers in charge.

In this case, right away it was reported that no one will ask for the death penalty.

Now again I would like to know where was that gentleman who spoke on T.V. the other night and said he wouldn't want to live near Mr. Hopkins or some of the top officials who down through the years have accepted the decision of highly qualified doctors in insanity cases and kept their voices and public opinions.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This writer requested his name be withheld. His correspondence came in the form of a letter to the editor.

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 postcard to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address, and telephone number.

QUESTION: The guidelines for purchasing a used car which were printed in a recent issue were quite informative. Could you tell us what precautions one should take to avoid being overcharged when having a car repaired? P. C.

ANSWER: Consumer Protection suggests that your first consideration be quality, which you can find out about from your friends.

The next thing is to go to the recommended place for estimates in writing including itemized charges for parts and labor. While you are getting your estimates, be careful of repairmen who promise costs significantly lower than other estimates. They may end up charging more than the estimated price.

Be careful of "special sale" offers. You may have to purchase other parts or services to take advantage of the sale.

Be careful of advertised promises of free estimates, free delivery, free towing. You may unknowingly commit yourself to expensive repairs and services.

When you have chosen the repairman, tell him you expect him to stick to his estimate or notify you in advance if he feels he has to go beyond it.

When the work is done, ask for an itemized list of parts and labor, in the event you have to return the car for the same repairs.

QUESTION: We are always told not to take a laxative when we have a stomach ache. What is the medical reason for this? C. P.

ANSWER: According to the information in a booklet issued by the Constant Care Health Center:

"A person with a bad stomach ache should call the doctor. While heatives, Geisel, baking soda in water, coke, chicken soup, heating pad or enema may work at certain times, at other times they can kill you.

"For example, an enema or a laxative administered to a person with appendicitis can polish him off quicker than anything else. Yet, an enema is helpful if you have an intestinal virus.

"Heating pads can relieve sore stomach muscles if you have been vomiting all night, but not all stomach aches involve sore muscles.

"Chicken soup has no curative powers but it might make you feel better psychologically if that's all that's wrong. Let the doctor direct which remedy to use for which particular kind of stomach ache."

Where to call

COMPLAINTS

Of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability or tension in your community, call COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION — 396-3141 or 396-3150

— of questionable business practices, CONSUMER PROTECTION, 383-3656

— on food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, radiological products, call FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION — 462-4499

— discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodation, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION — 383-3630

— about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — 333-2374

EMERGENCIES
AMBULANCE — 396-1111
FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-1313
POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333
HOUSING, HEATING, LIGHT — 234-2172 or 234-2412

SERVICE
ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-0218
CRIMINAL INJURIES resulting from robberies or assaults — 523-5000
DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS — 396-3168
DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL — 383-2720
FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2763
FURNACE CHECK — 396-4429
LEGAL AID — 539-5340
PENSION REFORM — 962-3914
RAPE — 366-7273
RAT AND INSECT CONTROL — 396-4418
RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188
SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-6232
TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-3049
VACANT HOUSE — 396-4126
WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4791

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — Mixing play time with business will not work. Your image can be badly damaged.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — You have been getting a great deal of praise recently. Show that you appreciate it because there is more to come.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Those who offer help may be very serious. Channel your energies in making good use of the situation.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — The home-front situation will come to a head very soon. Brace yourself for the ones in whom you confide.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Study a variety of solutions for your present problem. Choose the best one and go to work.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Your fears are groundless. Ownership can be more enjoyment than you realize.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Avoid unnecessary arguments. This can be done by not showing a superior attitude to those with whom you work.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Speak your mind, but do it in such a way you do not offend another. Chances are you will gain a friend.

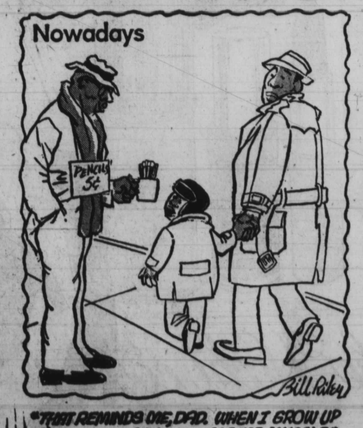
SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Stick to your belief but be calm about it. A display of temper may prevent you from reaching your goal.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — There is one you know who has a great deal of talent for getting into trouble. Lend a helping hand.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Running from problems does not solve them. If you aren't careful, you will have more than you can cope with.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) There are some who are unable to respond to fast moving events. Be patient in order to avoid an emotional scene.

Nowadays



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