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 (1888-1967)
Editor-Publisher (1922-1967)

But what will it do

Better late than never, Baltimore City finally has an "affirmative action" employment plan to correct its lopsided hiring pattern and hire more blacks and women at all levels. The AFRO is encouraged by this development. We are particularly eager to see what will happen in these well paying, higher echelon jobs which John B. Ferron, director of the Community Relations Commission, points out are occupied primarily by white males.

There are some skeptics who would call the plan a fizzle even before it starts, but we, like Mr. Ferron, say "give it a chance." Mr. Ferron says one easy indicator of the city's good faith will be who is selected to fill two important posts personnel director and chief of the bureau of Budget and Management Research

The new effort to bring about equal opportunity in hiring and promotions includes at least one top city official whose office reflects a decidedly poor record in these areas.

The AFRO, as you recall, was the first to say that there are a number of qualified blacks who could render a competent, conscientious service to the city in both of these positions. We are prepared to document our claim. Very soon we will announce the names of our own search committee.

The group, composed of highly respected leaders in the black community, will gather a list of suitable candidates to present to the city administration.

Then we will watch what they do.

The Freedom Classic

It probably is fitting that at 11:30 Saturday night, Channel 2 will televise the New Freedom Football Classic from Los Angeles Coliseum. The game should be as thrilling as the big "bowl" game slated for a few hours later in a L.A. suburb — the Super Bowl clash.

Not only because it will feature leading seniors from predominantly black college teams. Or because proceeds will benefit such worthy institutions as NAACP, Urban League, National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students and Edwin Gould Services for Children.

But because no matter what the annual "All America" polls or "major" and "small college" groupings tell us, the Morgan States, Virginia States and North Carolina A & Ts of the world traditionally develop many of the nation's top gridders.

The pros sign them anxiously. Among active college coaches, few if any whites have sent as many proteges to the professional ranks as Grambling's Eddie Robinson and Tennessee State's "Big John" Merritt. Through the years, such outstanding NFLers as Johnny Sample, Isaiah Robertson, Bob Hayes and Deacon Jones have come up from predominantly black schools. Ray Chester and "Frenchy" Fuqua are Morgan State products.

This is to take nothing from such greats as O. J. Simpson, Lydell Mitchell, Charley Taylor or other blacks who left indelible marks at their white alma maters and went on to "burn" in the pro ranks.

It is to give due recognition to the black schools — and to suggest that one should not be surprised if several of Saturday night's "Freedom Classic" stars go on to greater things in the pros.

Subway assurances

Some of the unanticipated costs that go with major projects such as Baltimore's $721 million subway system don't pose nearly so great a threat now that the federal government has agreed formally to pay 80 per cent of certain cost overruns should they develop.

The U.S. Mass Transit Administration will step in if inflation costs go beyond the expected 7 per cent annually, if extra costs are caused by natural disasters, if utility relocation costs are higher than estimated, should court litigation in right-of-way payments go beyond expectations and if the costs exceed proposed expenses due to changes in federal legislation

Transportation Secretary Harry R. Hughes is correct in saying the federal government now has made firm its commitment and also that it is incumbent upon the state to proceed with dispatch to avoid additional costs.

The entire project seems to be at the point now where the State Board of Public Works can take proper action with assurances it is not saddling Maryland taxpayers with major, unexpected financial budgets.

The first major work on the project has begun.

No time should be wasted getting on with other phases of the project when construction efforts are feasible.

A hot cup of coffee

It's hard to tell from day to day the price coffee is going to be but it's doubtful many people are going to boycott it long enough to have any real effect.

There's a shortage of coffee in the world and prices go up under those circumstances.

Boycotts have limited effect in the face of shortages. U.S. boycotts involving coffee no longer are as effective as they might have been in the past because people around the world are drinking more coffee these days.

At 25 cents a cup coffee has made the big time now, like those 25 and 30 cents sodas — a commodity on which there is no major shortage.

The retail price of a pound bag or can of coffee has jumped steadily from a 1967 base figure of 100 to an average base figure of 218.3 in 1976 on the consumer price index scale.

Those figures don't represent dollars but to translate, start thinking about $3 a pound for coffee at the market place.

But keep the coffee question in perspective before you let your nerves go percolating. Try on the price of lumber for size. Or compare the 1967 gasoline cost per gallon with today's and with what's coming. And how about those vehicles you burn gasoline in – and there doesn't seem to be a shortage of automobiles

Have you checked the cost of a hospital stay recently? And they seem to have plenty beds also.

The price of coffee is no joking matter but if you worry a lot about the cost of living and you like a hot cup of java, you're likely to need that 25 cents worth of imported refresher to help ward off some of the impact of other soaring prices.

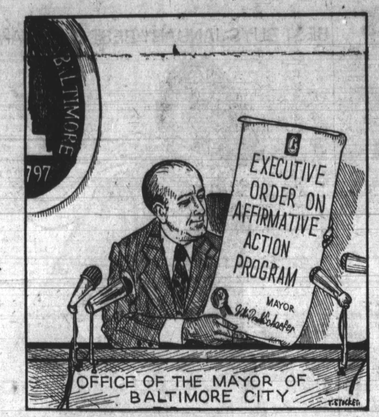
Juvenile crime

What ever Baltimore law enforcement officials and the court system are doing to combat the long-time increase in crime among the young, it appears to be paying dividends.

As encouraged as we are to note that there was about a 10 per cent drop in juvenile crime between the first nine months of 1975 and last year, there still is the figure showing juveniles account for 43 per cent of the arrests here.

There still is a lot of work ahead if the crime rates are to keep coming down. That goal will require continued commendable efforts on the part of officials and full support of citizens.

This time we mean bussiness



Now and then ____ by g. james fleming

President Ford and Puerto Rico

It is tragic, comic, or exciting — depending on one's makeup — the manner in which President Ford refuses to act like a "lameduck" President. He is all over the lot. His is no "caretaker" government. In his words and actions, he is President, period, and no hyphen.

Let it not be forgotten, either, that he is full-fledged, 100 per cent President, by virtue of the U.S. Constitution.

Somehow, however, he seems to have outreached himself and did not improve his "image" in suddenly offering the Commonwealth of Pureto Rico statehood, without consultation with either Pureto Ricans or congressional leaders.

President Ford also was ignoring all past routes by which former territories reached statehood — petition from the territories themselves, following referendum favoring statehood. No former President has initiated a drive for statehood.

Most important of all, our outgoing Chief Executive seemed to have given no thought to the confusion, divisionism and conflict which his unilateral action would cause in Puerto Rico.

Then, too, there is the impact his edict might have on the rest of Latin America, both friends and critics of the U. S. system.

In the only plebiscite taken in Pureto Rico on the kind of status its voters preferred, the vote was divided as follows:

Commonwealth status, 60.4 per cent, Statehood, 38.9 per cent, Independence, 0.6 per cent.

Recent visits to Puerto Rico and among Puerto Ricans traveling outside of the island, undergird the above picture. Most Puerto Ricans prefer Commonwealth status to any other arrangement. The fewest want to be an independent, sovereign nation.

It must be noted, however, that the recent election for governor seated the candidate of the leading pro-state party, Carlo Romero Barcelo, former mayor of San Juan. But he was elected with only 48.29 per cent of the total votes cast. The pro-Commonwealth candidate, incumbent Rafael Heranndez Colon, won 45.35 per cent, Pro-independent candidates received the rest, about 6 per cent.

Recent private polls in Puerto Rico indicate that about 30 per cent of the people favor statehood and about six per cent want independence. About 64 per cent favor Commonwealth status.

Most analysts of the November election believe that the shift to the pro-state party was due more to the present economic conditions (25 per cent unemployment) among masses than to any real desire for U.S. statehood.

Under "Commonwealth" status, Puerto Rico enjoys the best of all worlds. It has a higher per capita income than most Third World countries, it benefits from all U.S. grants-in-aid, including welfare. It keeps in its own treasury the U.S. income taxes it collects. And it has almost complete voice in all of its internal affairs.

For instance, when the Commonwealth "felt" the Spanish language should be the language of all school-teaching, that "feeling" was made into law, without any interference or veto from the larger country (Puerto Rico also decided that English should be taught in all Puerto Rican schools throughout all grades).

Puerto Rico also benefits from U.S. industry which establishes branches in the island (Puerto Rico's minimum wage law is nowhere as high as that of the mainland).

If the past is a guide, it will take several years for the process of statehood to evolve, if it ever reaches completion (some territories have waited 40 years, from petition to statehood.)

If and when Puerto Rico seems anywhere near becoming a full-fledged member of the federal Union, loud cries for the right to vote for U.S. President and for more representation in the Congress will be heard from the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam and other outlying U.S. dependencies.

And American political leaders will be wondering whether the U.S. needs any more non-whites as part of its national voting constituency.

President Ford may, or may not, have given thought to all these matters but, in the meantime, he continues reminding one and all that he is still fully President — until January 20, 1977.

Washington report

Jobs for 1977

By Parren J. Mitchell

(Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.)

Happy New Year!

Well, at least, the new year holds the possibility of being happy for those of us who are fortunately blessed with job security. But what about those millions of people whose present prospects for 1977 consist of the same hardships which they faced in 1976 — standing in long lines, pounding the sidewalks for hour upon hour, empty pockets, empty tables, dejection, rejection, frustration, and devastation?

Who cares?

All of us who are employed should care because we all pay for high unemployment through higher taxes and smaller pay checks. Those of us who are employed must support the various unemployment compensation programs. Those of us who are employed must support the human need-human resources programs which probably will always be needed, but on which the level of dependency can certainly be greatly reduced.

All of us, employed and unemployed, pay in terms of higher crime rates. Most tragically, we cannot even begin to measure the amount paid by our young men and women in terms of psychological damages which may not even be revealed for years to come.

By now, most of us are well into the process of completing our list of "1977 New Year's Resolutions." In fact, many of us have already broken a new resolution or two.

However, one resolution must be established this year and cannot be broken. Individually and collectively we must resolve to do everything possible to significantly reduce unemployment, this year!

During the 95th Congress, in all my capacities for serving the people, my primary focus and consideration shall be the reduction of unemployment. For example, through service on the Housing Banking, Currency and Housing Committee, I intend to attack the problem by calling for the stimulation of old and the creation of new, meaningful housing programs.

Serving on the House Budget Committee will give me the opportunity to work for the creation of job development public service and public works policies. Additionally, as in years past, the Budget Committee also provides a crucial link in the chain of efforts to create and sustain hundreds of thousands of summer youth jobs — a must. As far as is possible, each and every activity of mine during the next year will be jobs oriented.

Particularly in the area of employment, the Carter-Mondale Administration certainly offers new hope for a new sensitivity about the needs of the poor, working poor, minorities, and the disadvantaged. We should never be fooled, though, into believing that the President and-or the Congress can do it all. They can't! People at every level of responsibility must follow though.

Therefore, I challenge every member of the Maryland Congressional delegation to adopt a personal resolution to do everything possible to significantly reduce unemployment, this year. I propose the same challenge to every member of the Maryland State Legislature and the Baltimore City Council.

Private industry has and will always play the key role in permanent employment creation. The same challenge, therefore, goes out to the presidents of our area's major businesses: e.g., Bethlehem Steel, Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone, Baltimore Gas and Electric, etc.

If you care, then resolve to make your concerns known though letters and calls to those who have the power to provide jobs.

Baltimore and Maryland can set the example. Working together we can make a change. The choice is ours.

Let us resolve once and for all that every person will be able to get a job.

A little about a lot ____ by madeline w. murphy

Mandel trial brings up Biblical message

Following the governor's trial — the parade of witnesses whose testimony left a bitter taste, then the mistrial because of the alleged jury tampering that aborted justice without deciding either his guilt or innocence — a heavy cloud still hangs over the highest office in the state.

And unless a retrial is promptly set, we shall never know the full extent of his guilt or innocence. I am reminded of the following:

"The doctors of the law and the Pharisees sit in the chair of Moses; therefore do what they tell you; pay attention to their words. But do not follow their practice, for they say one thing and do another. They makeup heavy packs and pile them on men's shoulders, but will not raise a finger to lift the load themselves.

"Whatever they do is done for show. They go about with broad phylacteries and large tassels on their robes. They like to have places of honor at feasts and the chief seats in synagogues, to be greeted respectfully in the street, and to be addressed as 'rabbi.'

"The greatest among you must be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled; and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

"Alas, alas for you, lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites that you are! You shut the door of the kingdom of Heaven in men's faces; you do not enter yourselves, and when others are entering, you stop them.

"Alas, for you lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel over sea and land to win one convert; and when you have won him you make him twice as fit for hell as you are yourselves.

"Alas for you, blind guides! You say, 'If a man swears by the sanctuary, that is nothing, but if he swears by the gold in the sanctuary, he is bound by his oath.' Blind fools! Which is more important, the gold, or the sanctuary which sanctifies the gold?

"Or you say, 'If a man swears by the altar that is nothing, but if he swears by the offering that lies on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' What blindness! Which is more important, the offering, or the altar which sanctifies it?

"To swear by the altar, then, is to swear both by the altar and by whatever lies on it; to swear by the sanctuary is to swear both by the sanctuary and by him who dwells there. And to swear by heaven is to swear both by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

"Alas for you, lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites! You pay tithes of mint, dill and cummin. But you have overlooked the weightier demands of the Law: justice, mercy and good faith. It is these you should have practiced without neglecting the others.

"Blind guides! You strain off a midget, yet, gulp down a camel!

"Alas for you, lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, which you have filled inside by robbery and self-indulgence! Blind Pharisee! Clean the inside of the cup first; then the outside will be clean also.

"Alas for you lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like tombs covered with whitewash: they look well from outside, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all kinds of filth. So it is with you: outside you look like honest men, but inside you are brim full of hypocrisy and crime.

"Alas for you lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites! You build up the tombs of the prophets and embellish the monuments of the saints, and you say, 'If we had been alive in our fathers' time, we should never have taken part with them in the murder of the prophets.' Go on then, finish off what your fathers began!

"You snakes, you vipers' brood, how can you escape being condemned to hell? I send you there for prophets, sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and hound from city to city. And so, on you will fall the guilt of all the innocent blood spilt on the ground, from innocent Abel to Zechariah, son of Berachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Believe me, this generation will bear the guilt of it all . . ."

These are the words of Jesus as he addressed the people and his disciples as written in Matt. 23: 3-7, 12-36, the New English Bible.

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, Lillie Palmer (PN 2658.O3A33)
THE ROCKEFELLERS, Peter Collier (E747.C64)
WORLD OF OUR FATHERS, Irving Howe (F128.9.J5H6)

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

Smile

Observing that his wife was empty-handed after a shopping spree, the puzzled husband inquires, "Why does a woman say she has been shopping when she hasn't purchased anything? The wife quickly replied, "Why does a man say he's been fishing when he hasn't caught anything?"

Experts needed

LAGOS — Nigeria could need to find 49,000 additional top - level management personnel if the current N42 million (about $67.5 million sterling) development plan is to be fully implemented, according to official statements.

Boo-Hoo

Dear AFRO, I welcomed the news
you had put my poetry in print.
I was thrilled as could be because
you represent
The voice of the people loud and
strong.
So I'd like to thank you for getting
the title right
But you got the verse wrong.

DOROTHY C. ALVES

Logic

Yesterday I heard a robin sing
telling of his plan
To build a nest in a willow tree.
I said, "Silly bird, don't you know
willows weep
And you could drown in her
sorrows."
And he said, "Silly girl, don't you
know a robin's song
Might brighten all her
tomorrows."

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

Student scholarships

Dear AFRO:

At this time every year many students apply for scholarship aid only to find the deadline for submission for these applications has passed.

The deadline date for applying to the Maryland State Scholarship Board for aid to be used during the 1977-78 year is Jan. 15.

Application packets and information regarding the filing procedures can be obtained from high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices or the Maryland State Scholarship Board located at 2100 Guilford Ave. (Telephone number, 383-4095) open weekdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Also for students' assistance the Maryland State Scholarship Board will be open Saturday, Jan. 8 and Saturday, Jan. 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

I urge all eligible and desiring students to apply.

CLARENCE W. BLOUNT
State Senator

Allen is clerk choice

Attention, Baltimore Supreme Bench — a black courthouse insider should be appointed the next Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.

William Allen, the first black deputy clerk in the Criminal Court staff since 1965, is the one black whom we feel is more than capable.

A longtime "courthouse insider" in whom the Supreme Bench feels confident, he should be the most likely to be appointed.

Mr. Allen has reflected a deep sense of responsibility and competence in good public relations. He has been especially good at helping uninformed blacks, who usually get the run around when they seek help.

As an active member of the Baltimore Civic Interest Group, he has been committed to the voter registration program for blacks. He has been active in the annual Soul Festival held in Charles Center. He is a member of the Baltimore New Breed Coalition and has supported the coalition's community projects in helping the poor and aged in delivering Christmas baskets each year. Mr. Allen is currently supporting the expansion of Provident Hospital's Mental Health Program.

During the Primary Election of September 1974, Mr. Allen ran for the office of Clerk of the Criminal Court as "courthouse insider." Mr. Allen is familiar with the operations of the courts. Therefore, if appointed Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, the adjustment will be an easy one for him and likewise for the Supreme Bench.

Irvin Conway,
Director
Baltimore Civic
Interest Group

Concerns for New Year

Dear AFRO:

Our country recently celebrated 200 years of existence. Now we are unfolding the New Year and are in a transitional period. Let's vision for awhile where we are and where we are going. Today is the result of work and ideas of people who lived before us. The leaders of yesteryear were more actively concerned with stability, order and protection of rights from the turbulent masses. Where problems and difficulties existed, there was a will to cooperate and a group of leaders of unrivaled political talent to face them.

Great people like Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Martin L. King, John F. Kennedy, Mary McLeod Bethune. They were interested in reforms, political affairs and appreciation for education and learning in the church and forms of government for the people. They dedicated their lives to change and had something to offer through experiences and actions. They were concerned about the full enjoyment of the gifts of Heaven and fruits of superior industry, economy with virtues in government that favors responsibilities.

In this new year we should be so concerned in our government. We must have a reduction in crime. We must have jobs. We must have fair tax laws and national security. We must have better health care, high quality education and have lower interest rates! How about some of these concerns to launch our new year!

JACQUELINE A. FLEMING

Minority agents snubbed

Dear President-elect Carter:

I am writing to make you aware of a manifestly unfair situation existing in the area of minority insurance representation: Large Insurance companies are not contracting minority agents. Period.

This policy — in repudiation of federal guidelines for affirmative action programs — affects both minority agents, like my own firm, and the inner urban clients of such agents. Insurance, as you are aware, touches every facet of a citizen's life.

Excluding certain segments of our population from obtaining protective coverage at reasonable premium rates is just as much a violation of their rights as refusing them employment because of their color, their sex, or the addresses where they choose to make their homes.

Automobile insurance is a case in point. In Maryland, law requires a car owner to have adequate insurance before tags are issued: tags are withdrawn if insurance is dropped. So many Maryland drivers are forced to discontinue operating their vehicles because they cannot afford prohibitive premiums charged as a result of their living in certain neighborhoods.

These drivers are, therefore, limited in employment opportunities by reason of transportation difficulties. It is indeed a vicious circle.

I am sure this situation obtains in other states. Large companies could not follow the exclusion policy against minority agents or brokers if this policy were not widespread. Perhaps your administration could appoint a sub-Cabinet level investigational person with experience in this area.

Pressure applied to have firms accepting government contracts spread their insurance coverages — workmen's compensation, group benefit, and so forth — to include minority agents, would open the way for a breakthrough.

Believe me, Mr. Carter, I am a thoroughly responsible and civic-minded man with a firm background in my field, and I can document everything I have told you here.

Edward J. Birrane Jr., our State Insurance Commissioner, has made appreciable efforts on my behalf, with negative results. Now I feel that something must be done at the federal level and that you are knowledgeable enough, and fair enough, to support us.

Frank M. Conaway
President, Ashburton
Insurance LTD.

Nowadays

Young Beat ____ by larry young

Call Annapolis 269-0100

(Mr. Young is a member of the House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore's City's 38th District.)

YOUNG BEAT believes that an understanding of how the Legislature works is the first step in fulfilling our responsibilities as citizens to keep government alive and responsive to our changing needs. As legislators, we in the General Assembly depend on your active participation so that we can truly be "your voice in Annapolis." On Wednesday Jan. 12, 1977, the Maryland General Assembly will convene.

In 1974, new reapportionment legislation was adopted which created 47 legislative districts of equal population. One senator and three delegates represent each district.

The following are duties and responsibilities of the Senate and the House of Delegates:

(1) To pass laws necessary for the welfare of Maryland's citizens.

(2) To pass public laws for counties and special taxing areas.

(3) To decide the manner in which State funds are to be spent.

(4) To supervise the State's administrative agencies.

(5) To propose amendments to the State constitution.

The Legislature is instrumental in integrating public demands with public policy.

Many of the members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus have expressed concern about the lack of black visitation to Annapolis, particularly during the General Assembly session. I have had some people tell me that this should not disturb us, inasmuch as you elect us to this office and we are to be your eyes and ears in Annapolis. But can we effectively be your conscience on every issue?

Each year more than 1,000 different pieces of legislation are introduced in both houses. This legislation is to be read, studied and voted upon, all usually within 90 days. This is not to mention our responsibilities as members of standing committees, subcommittees, individual legislation, special projects, constituent responsibilities. And on it goes. It would be to your advantage not to assume that we can do an effective job without your participation.

I would suggest that every neighborhood association, fraternity, sorority, civic group, block group and service group decide that it will make a visit to Annapolis between Jan. 12 and April 11. Personally, I would hope you would come not once but many times. I would think that your legislator would be more than happy to meet and greet you during your visit.

There will be issues during the 1977 session that should concern you. Sales tax — five cents on every dollar, tax reform—elimination of property taxes, enactment of the death penalty — capital punishment, money to build new schools or to renovate old ones, insurance matters, health concerns, consumer legislation, the right-to-die issue, the right-to-life issue and utility rates are among them.

This year you can have easier access to your legislator. You can call your legislator toll-free by dialing direct (for those citizens of the 38th Legislative District, 269-3071 will reach Yours Truly and 269-3072 will reach Delegates Dixon or Lee).

You can call your legislator in Annapolis by dialing 269-0100 and asking the operator for your delegate's or senator's extension. Thus, it is easier for any constituent to talk with the office of his or her legislator if he or she so chooses.

I should like to note, however, that one should be prepared to talk with one of the legislator's staff, inasmuch as the legislator is on a whirlwind schedule every day and will be unable to talk with every person who calls.

If you decide to write your legislator, the following addresses would be appropriate. State Senator (your senator's name) Wm. S. James Senate Office Building, Annapolis, Md. 21401. Delegate, (your delegate's name) T. H. Lowe Building, Annapolis, Md. 21401.

YOUNG BEAT urges those of you who are concerned about what's going on in our community not to leave it solely to television news to educate you as to what's going on in Annapolis, but to take a direct interest by deciding to come to Annapolis. So, right now, sit down, jot a note to yourself to make preparations to visit Annapolis this year during the 1977 General Assembly session. Y'all come down, you hear?

(Next week: A discussion of legislative bills.)

Salute of week

(AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations to be used in this column. Write Salute of the Week, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

In the mail this week was a letter from Anchorage, Alaska, in which the writer feels his nominee is "quite unusual."

The honoree is 26-year old Warren L. Covington, a history teacher at Dunbar Senior High School.

Mr. Covington is a native Baltimorean, and a graduate of City College, Class of 1968. He holds a B.S. degree from Coppin State College and is working on his Master's in Business Administration at Morgan State University.

Our correspondent further describes Mr. Covington as "an excellent prospect for Mayor of Baltimore City in the early 1980's . . . civil rights advocate . . . extremely popular in his community . . . active in planning wholesome activities around the community . . . impeccable . . . a diamond in the rough."

Mr. Covington serves as secretary of a community based organization called Firmare, Inc.

Our honoree's mother, Mrs. Rosa Covington is employed by the Social Security Administration at Woodlawn. Dad is an Armco Steel employe. Mrs. Beatrice Covington is his grandmother.

Mr. Covington has a brother, Ronald who is employed by the B. and O. Railroad and is a sophomore at Morgan State University's Evening College. His sister, Wanda is also a sophomore at Morgan.

The family attends Timothy Baptist Church where the Rev. James L. Ball is minister.

Inmate claims conditions in Pen are dehumanizing

Dear AFRO:

I want it to be known that the conditions at the Maryland Penitentiary have reached the dehumanizing stages. The inmates can no longer stagnate themselves by being made and passively accepting the physical and mental beatings that these warped minded police are subjecting a man to.

As a result of speaking out and letting our feelings be known, we're being beaten and stabbed by the officers. We're also being framed to cover the wrongdoings of officers who are committing crimes against the inmates. I'm only one among numerous inmates that have recently fallen to the so-called "Boom Squad" on the segregation unit.

On December 11, 1976, sometime between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. three inmates including myself, were let out of our cells for showers. A fight erupted. Two of us were handcuffed separately. Harris was beaten and stabbed by an officer. Other officers were armed with black riot clubs. I was beaten and stabbed, also, until there was no longer any pain in the officers' blows to me.

An inmate and I were put back in the shower to rinse the blood off our heads and bodies. Then we were taken to the institutional hospital until a van was prepared to transport us to University Hospital for treatment. I was treated for multiple stab wounds of the face, head, and hands. My jaw and legs were checked for possible broken bones, and some teeth were missing. I was given some type of shot.

Another inmate was operated on for multiple stab wounds over his entire body. When I saw him, he looked to be in pretty bad shape. I was returned to the institution and placed back in my cell on segregation.

As of this writing, the condition of the other guy who went to the hospital is unknown. He is still at the hospital in the recovery unit.

The story that the administration is conveying to the public through the news media is false. The administration is only seeking to cover-up the incident and to protect the officers that were involved to evade possible court action.

Another inmate, Robert Walker, was attacked by officers on the same date in another incident. We are only a few of the many victims on that day. A lot of inmates were beaten and stabbed.

I haven't gone into everything in great detail because I have a sore hand that prevents me from writing a whole lot. I only wanted to reveal the truth by manifesting a few thoughts on the incident which I was a victim of.

NAME WITHHELD
Maryland Penitentiary

Hispanics want more

WASHINGTON — The Hispanic community, considered the nations fastest growing minority, is asking the incoming Carter Administration to keep campaign promises by appointing Hispanics to at least 84 high federal jobs.

"It is evident that much of the Hispanic community in the United States supported the candidacy of Gov. Carter and looks forward with keen anticipation to his administration," according to "an action plan" prepared for Hank Lacayo, the top Hispanic adviser in the Carter campaign.

There are currently 76 Hispanics in federal positions, including three ambassadors in Latin America (Mexico, Colombia and El Salvador). Edward Aguirre of California, U.S. commissioner for education, is now the highest federal official of Hispanic descent.

Lacayo said that the Hispanic vote was decisive in Carter's victories in such key states as Texas, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

It considered a "realistic goal" for the Carter Administration to make 84 appointments at top federal level. That would be about 4.5 per cent of the total of 2,200 presidential appointments available.

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — The fact that your idea is original will make up for the price tag. Do not hesitate to buy what you believe will please another.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Seek professional help where financial problems are concerned. Others can not solve your difficulties at this time.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Advancement in your career is very good. However, take care that you do not cause uneasiness for your loved one by doing so.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Do not be tempted to speak rudely to a co-worker. Personal relationship is at stake.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Try being independent of moods. A bad mood can cause you to miss out on a profitable deal.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Beware that in taking up for another's cause, you don't neglect your own. It could cause considerable loss.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Indications are that you must be a little less timid and a bit more courageous. Unless you take this middle road, you will find yourself in over your head.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Make major decisions now, even though the chips are down. Present circumstances can be explained.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your insatiable desire for pleasure could lead to difficulties. You may find yourself in a very embarrasing situation.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Speculation combined with knowledge could net more than expected. Also, rely heavily on past experiences.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Bury the hatchet. A demonstration of your willingness to be friends will certainly be appreciated.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20 - March 20) — Grant others the trust you would like placed in you. Encourage another, in a tactful way, to support you.

..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: I am employed in the downtown area, about two blocks from the Reads at Franklin and Howard Sts. When there is a sale I usually run down to the store in order to take advantage of the sale. Almost inevitably the items which I desire have been sold out. It is hard for me to understand this and moreover the fact that I am not offered a raincheck for the "sold out" items. The items in question is Dial Saop which was "Five large bars for $1.00." Can you please explain this to me. — L.P.

ANSWER: A call to the general offices revealed, "That store had 14 cases and there are 72 pieces in one case. So they are just sold out. They should have given your reader a rain check. I will be glad to send her one and she can take advantage of the sale price whenever the store is restocked.

"I have checked with several of the downtown stores and find that they are all sold out. They had plenty of items in the store before the sale, so it wasn't that we didn't have it. It was just a good bargain and people flocked to buy it."

QUESTION: In November, I received my Lane Bryant's monthly statement with a scale showing 1-10 balance due. I thought their policy of high re-payment had changed, until I received my December bill where they had returned to the old payment plan where 1/6 of the balance was due. I was informed by a credit department clerk that I was sent the wrong statement and like a broken record with the needle stuck: "You pay 1/6 of the balance."

Since a large percentage of Lane Bryant's downtown shoppers are black, please investigate as to whether blacks are billed differently and why. — B.S.

ANSWER: AFRO Line spoke to one of the supervisors in the Credit Department and was informed:

"When we changed over to our new format for bills, our New York office had misprinted the bills mailed in October as far as the scale at the bottom was concerned. The payment should always be one-sixth of the balance shown on the previous bill. For a $300 bill the payment should be around $50."

The spokesman assured AFRO Line that all customers are sent the same bill form.

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 — 962-4499 — discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodation, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION — 383-3693 — about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — 383-2374

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
LEGAL AID — 539-5340
PENSION REFORM — 962-3914
RAPE — 366-7273
RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188
SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-6232
TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-3049
VACANT HOUSE — 396-4176
WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4791

LUSAKA — Water development programs are to be given priority in Zambia's third development plan period, it has been announced.

Recently a Chinese - built water project at Mumbwa in Zambia was officially commissioned. The scheme will pump 130,000 gallons of drinking water every hour.