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)

New personnel director

Baltimore's new director of personnel, Mrs. Hilda Ford of New York sounds like the best thing this important governmental agency has had in a long, long time.

The AFRO and the Baltimore Metropolitan Committee spearheaded a campaign to encourage city officials to hire a black expert in personnel matters to upgrade the department.

It was meaningful that Mayor Schaefer's announcement that Mrs. Ford will take over the job came a day before Joseph H. H. Kaplan, outgoing president of the Civil Service Commission, was sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore.

Over the last two years, Kaplan carried out duties of a director while the salary scale was brought more in line with the responsibilites the post entails.

When the search for a new director was launched, Kaplan assured representatives of the Baltimore Metropolitan Committee that blacks would have as good a shot at winning the top personnel post as any other candidate.

Apparently Mayor Schaefer agreed with that equal opportunity posture for the personnel director's job and when they saw Hilda Ford's qualifications she got the position.

Baltimore's personnel department is not in the best of shape. Many important changes have to be made in areas such as testing, evaluations and ratings. Even as efforts to improve the 20,000-worker system is conducted, tough labor negotiations must be carried out periodically.

Mrs. Ford's past experiences, including challenges of her present post as assistant director of the New York State Office of Employee Relations made her a good choice for the personnel director's job here.

Comptroller Hyman Pressman is completely off base in suggesting that Baltimore should not go outside the city to hire talent.

What has been supported by the AFRO, BMC, the Supreme Court and people like City Councilman Emerson R. Julian is that people chosen to hold municipal jobs — no matter where they are found — be willing to reside in Baltimore City while on the city tax payroll.

Pressman's support of that would make more sense than does his poor off relative to Mrs. Ford's selection.

The AFRO expects both the city's new personnel director and the Supreme Bench's latest edition to do first-class jobs.

Hettleman scores

Kalman R. Hettleman lost no time at all this week in announcing that his Social Services Department would come up with additional funds required to keep furnaces burning in the homes of deserving poor people during this unprecedentedly cold winter span.

The new SSD director showed he has that human touch plus the backbone to follow through on the funding necessary to take care of such problems.

Hettleman put it directly: "As long as the emergency exists, we're committed to providing the money."

That means city's emergency center, which had been worried about not being able to continue buying heating oil for families who simply can not afford it themselves, will get the extra $20 to $25,000 which could be required if the record cold lingers.

As long as these welfare and social service agencies make sure people receiving assistance are deserving of it, then they perform the services they are established to by coming through in emergencies.

So often when emergency situations develop which involve people at the bottom of the economic heap, the response they get is a run - around or a situation where money finally is put up after the politicians and the public have squeezed out every possible bit of justice from the "we'll help you, beggars one more time" attitude.

The additional problem created for many poor families by the extreme cold is nothing less than an emergency and we like the way SSD director Hettleman responded.

Deal for Mandel?

Jack Anderson's column this week reminds of a recent AFRO editorial that suggested the financial cost of justice handled the way the trial of Gov. Marvin Mandel has been mishandled might well result in a deal being worked out.

Pointing to Gov. Mandel's insistence that he is innocent and wants to be tried before Marylanders, the AFRO wrote:

"But how far should he be expected to dig himself into a financial grave in order to prove himself innocent when there can be no certainty that there might not be another costly breakdown in the judicial process before he gets his verdict?

"It would not surprise us at all if sometime before the case goes to trial next summer, seen now as the earliest possible date, that some plea bargaining takes place that gets the governor off the hook."

Anderson's column is to the effect that the lawyer who worked out President Nixon's pardon has attempted a deal similar to former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's on Mandel's behalf with outgoing President Ford.

Gov. Mandel says he does not know anything about the efforts by Benton Becker.

As things stand now, Gov. Mandel and his co-defendants are scheduled to go on trial again April 13. The first lengthy and costly one ended in a mistrial due to laxity on the part of federal officials.

The AFRO thinks the odds are good that a deal eventually is going to be worked out that will include Gov. Mandel's leaving office before his term expires.

Jimmy Carter off to a good start

Just minutes after taking the oath of office as 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter gave a vivid example of how he plans to keep close to the people.

President Jimmy Carter, with the Secret Service apparently unable to do anything about it, strolled down the middle of the parade route street to his reviewing stand with the people cheering him mightily as he went along.

It was one of his hours of glory and he clearly was sharing it with the people who had elected him to office and had come to see him assume his official responsibilities.

There will be times when President Jimmy Carter will have to bow to the good judgment of his Secret Service and not do things he might wish to in order to be close to the people.

But his mile and a half walk on Thursday built new credibility for his intended relationship with the people of America.

Among the thousands who turned out to see the President take the oath of office and to participate in other official and unofficial inaugural activities, there was a mood of hope at flood tide level.

The bitter cold and the pushing that go along with inaugural crowds seemed to have been taken in stride. Little sharpness was heard from any source.

Good intentions and good moods do not guarantee that the Carter Administration is going to be a successful one. But such ingredients can and should be helpful.

Jimmy Carter' inaugural speeches do not tend to be long ones. His inaugural address on becoming governor of Georgia was short and so was the one he delivered on Thursday.

But he believes in setting the tone of his intentions in his inaugural addresses and this one for the presidency did that.

Millions of Americans think Jimmy Carter the best man possible for the presidency at this time and they voted for his election.

Millions who would have preferred someone else, are now going to give him their support because he is President of the United States.

His inaugural address may not be rated the best in history but his call for cooperation from the American people will be answered.

The Jimmy Carter presidency is off to a good start.

Walking among his people

Washington report — Total amnesty now

By Rep. Parren J. Mitchell

Back on Feb. 26, 1, along with several of my colleagues from both the House and the Senate sponsored a Congressional Amnesty Conference titled "Amnesty — An Unresolved National Question."

The purpose of that conference was to explore all possible approaches to the major item of unfinished business of the Vietnam War — the question of amnesty for those who face punishment or who have been penalized for actions taken in connection with the war.

Following that Conference, Senator Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. stated:

"... respect for individual conscience is part of our national heritage, and there is no doubt that it is part of our religious heritage as well. For those young men who refused to be part of the Vietnam war policy for deep personal reasons of conscience, no further penalty should be exacted.

"They have suffered enough—whether by serving time in jail or by being separated from their families, friends and futures."

Senator Kennedy is right!

—

First, there is absolutely no difference between the "suffering" to which Senator Kennedy refers and the "suffering" to which former President Ford referred in his unprecedented pardon of Richard Nixon.

Second, whether one was for the war or against the war is of no moment four years after the war has been concluded.

Third, the divisiveness and residue of bitterness that now exist must be erased — regardless of whether the word pardon or amnesty is used.

Reportedly, President Carter is considering an amnesty or pardon program. However, there is a danger that the President's program would overlook certain key categories of war resistors which contain many, many blacks and other minorities.

For example, the total numbers involved in those various categories are: 3,000 fugitive draft evaders, 9,000 convicted draft evaders, an estimated 250,000 non-registrants, 3,000 fugitive deserters, 90,000 estimated veterans with less than honorable discharges for AWOL and desertion, and 250,000 Vietnam era veterans with general and undesirable discharges.

—

I have always been an advocate of amnesty and supported amnesty legislation; I shall continue to do so. Therefore, I am fully supporting a Congressional Resolution, introduced by Representative Edward I. Koch, D-N.Y., which requests and urges President Carter to extend his Vietnam reconciliation program and complete the reconciliation process by taking the following major steps:

A. — Granting amnesty to all persons convicted under the Military Selective Service Act of offenses committed during the Vietnam era or against whom charges arising from failure to register in accordance with such Act during the Vietnam era are outstanding; and

B. — Upgrading all general and undesirable discharges issued to former members of the Armed Forces who served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era to honorable discharges; and

—

C. — Reviewing on a case-by-case basis each bad conduct and dishonorable discharge issued to a former member of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era to determine in each instance whether such discharge should be upgraded; and (although the above reads "case-by-case," I, personally, would support a blanket policy in these instances also)

D. — Granting amnesty to each member and former member of the Armed Forces who during the Vietnam era deserted or was AWOL, whether the individual has or has not been tried and convicted by a court-martial for such a violation.

President Carter has an extraordinary opportunity to wipe the slate clean — to resolve an unresolved national question. Hopefully, Carter will grasp and use that opportunity.

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Opposition to Bell had to be

No one should be surprised that the NAACP and other leading civil rights organizations had to expose the record of Judge Griffin Bell and to oppose his confirmation as U.S. attorney general.

No surprise, either, that the black leadership did not agree on such opposition; nor any surprise that Bell would be confirmed by the Senate.

There are blacks, and blacks and blacks, only slightly different in interests from the several other groupings in the population. There are the long - established organizations dedicated to black betterment; there are others, of varying ages, which want to become No. 1 and, therefore, right now, are supporting the "power structure"; and there are those who believe that President Carter's decency will, ipso facto, pass over to the men and women governing under him. Then, too, there are the opportunists.

Neither President Carter nor Bell would have respected black Americans if they had taken Bell "sitting down;" if they had bought a "pig in the poke." Indeed, Bell may be a better attorney general than if he had glided into his high office just because he is "President Carter's boy."

Aside from the race angle, it was also important that light be shed on Bell's fiscal and other close ties to Charles Kirbo, head of Atlanta's leading law firm and a Georgia "kingmaker" of note.

We hope, as in the case of Alabama's Hugo Black, who was named to the Supreme Court amid NAACP and labor opposition, that Bell will also demonstrate the capacity of human beings to be "born again."

—

The bitter personal attacks on each other by spokesmen for and against Bell did the cause of "black unity" no good. Somehow, blacks will have to find a way to give first priority to addressing themselves to issues and the record, and put least time on devouring each other.

It would be sad, as Bell wins, if blacks find themselves weakened by self-interest cannibalism.

So far as this column and its writer are concerned, in matters such as the Bell confirmation hearings, we recall a past National Guard billboard. Paraphrased, it would say that, when it comes to civil rights, we can sleep unafraidedly every night because the NAACP is watching over us.

Not that the NAACP must be always right, but that it is almost always right.

We are not surprised, but we regret the geographical parochialism of the top Carter administrative assistants —six of seven from Georgia. We regret even more that there is not even one black among the top seven. We had hoped that of the Georgia blacks who were among Carter's earliest supporters, there would be someone picked for the top seven.

It is of course, still too early to judge the new President on his inclusion of blacks in upper positions. Most of those to be named will, undoubtedly, be distributed in the several Cabinet departments.

One of the signposts which blacks cannot overlook is the directive from President Carter for all departments to reduce their supporting staffs by 30 per cent. It is to be feared that that "30 per cent" will include many of the potential blacks who would have been beneficiaries of Carter promises, if...

This is the way it has happened in the past when it comes to blacks, women and other minorities.

Don't be alarmed if blacks are skeptical and if they become alarmed. They have been the victims of promises and reform before — victims of paper gains but real losses — victims of "benign neglect."

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Can we learn from Chicago?

Blacks in Baltimore have been counted from 55 to 62 per cent of the total population; and 51 per cent of the registered voters.

And though these statistics are great table-pounding rhetoric, they do not solidify this power into a unifiedfront that should make this majority count for much more than tokenism.

Rather than a majority in the City Council, we are merely a whimper and as it stands now, too establishment, too identified with the adversary, to even develop an effective block that ought to gain respectful attention from a runaway mayor, who Daley-like dictates anti-black policies and gets most of what he wants despite this black majority.

This state of affairs is a bit reminiscent of the recent power take-over in the interim mayoralty of Chicago upon the demise of Daley.

(Incidentally, did you wonder how President Carter could attend Daley's funeral, but not memorial services for Martin Luther King Jr., right in his own back yard? This should speak volumes about his allegiances, his gratitude or respect for blacks who made his presidency possible!)

But back to Chicago ... Three hundred blacks attended a rally after the special City Council meeting that denied black President Pro tempore, Ald. Wilson Frost, the temporary mayoralty. They claimed they were dealt a slap in the face, that they would not back Frost in the special election six months hence.

Instead, the Rev. Jesse Jackson vowed that black leaders would launch a search for their candidate and support their candidate with fund-raising, voter registration and vigorous campaigning. In assessing the 490,000 registered blacks as their political strength, Jackson quipped their political weakness was 400,000 unregistered blacks.

What he and his group must guard against, however, is the generally poor turn-out at elections of registered blacks that waters down the effect of registration drive.

Somehow black leadership disillusion black voters by usually selling out quickly or forgetting its power base.

In fact the leaders attending the rally, including Rep. Ralph Metcalfe, felt that Frost, in choosing not to push his bid for acting mayor, caved in too quickly and charged that, in fact, Frost had sold the black community down the river.

Yet, black Daley supporters were quick to defend Frost's action, because he could only muster 24 votes out of a 50 member council, (Ironically, Ald. Michael A. Bilandic was elected acting mayor by a 45-2 vote — but then the price always goes up when a black is running for the position.)

In addition, they claimed Frost's Chairmanship of the Finance Committe was a more powerful position since Frost could do blacks more good, by holding up funds for programs where blacks weren't dealt in. He could really become Czar of the city government purse strings, so they say.

But be that as it may, the fact remains that in Baltimore, Chicago or anywhere else something has to change that will hold out hope for the average Joe in the street, who is not all that unsophisticated, after all, that he can't smell sell-out, or the sudden identification with the enemy, that seems endemic with blacks in political power.

Lessons should be learned from this exercise of Jesse Jackson and his political leaders within six months, as to how much outrage can be sustained, that seems, at this point, to unify Chicago blacks.

Can Baltimore blacks learn from this experience and police the black politicans to purge the Judases?

Given the majority voter registration, what will be our chances for more and better black representation both in '78 and '79?

Finally, who and what will unify us here to make us angry enough about lilly-white representation (even tokenism seems to be dead) that makes the lot in life of blacks in Baltimore worse and worse?

Poet's Corner

A Dream For Tomorrow

A dream I have for tomorrow,
knowing life will be better
A day when the wrongs will be
righted forever
No more crime, corruption, lies or
deceit
All forces of a negative proportion
will go down in defeat.
As we cancel them out our children
will be free at play
Growing productively and produce
more offspring themselves one
day.
All would be humble and true to
their creed
Yes this would surely be a won-
drous day indeed.
A day when the meek will finally
find the nerve
To speak freely a right they richly
deserve.
A time when all nations of
obedience could be found
In mutual agreement on some
common ground.
A day would come when everlasting
peace proceeds to begin
No more battles would be fought so
no one would win.
Competition among God's children
would cease to exist
In the army of love all faithful
followers could enlist
Men, women and children then
would be at peace.
No more need for the Marines, the
Coast Guard or police.
Free for life's pursuit in happiness
No more fears and woes
For the master of creation will
defeat all foes.

STEPHEN L. WALDEN

"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

For supermarket

Dear AFRO:

As president of the Upper Fells Point Planning Council, I would like to go on record in favor of the planned construction of a supermarket at the site of the burned out Obrycki's Restaurant on Lombard Street (Council Bill No. 545).

Through my own experiences shopping and through talking with community residents there is definitely a need for a new supermarket with competitive prices in our neighborhood.

One of our Planning Council's main objectives is to get rid of vacant buildings in our neighborhood. If this burned-out, boarded-up building could be turned into a profitable business, another vacant building would be taken care of.

The Upper Fells Point Community also supports new businesses which want to come into our neighborhood, once thought to be a declining one.

Through the hard work of community residents working with city officials we have reversed our community's decline.

We are again a dynamic community in which Baltimore City can take pride.

BYRON FISHEL II,
President
Upper Fells Point
Planning Council

Big Brothers' raffle

Dear AFRO:

In December the Delta Epsilon Fraternity sponsored a raffle for the benefit of the Big Brothers movement under the chairmanship of Mike Kovacks and the support by the dean of students, Joseph S. Hill.

Participation by the student body was most gratifying. At a party for some of our Little Brothers hosted by Delta Epsilon, we were presented with a check representing the support of the student body, the efforts of the Delta Epsilon Fraternity as well as a contribution from their treasury.

The warm friendly atmosphere of the party on campus, the sincerity and concerns of the fraternity and the involvement of the Little Brothers in touch football with the students was a heart-warming experience.

More than this, several students have been inspired to inquire about active enrollment as Big Brothers.

For all this and what it represents, we are grateful to the Delta Epsilon Fraternity, the office of the Dean of Students and the student body of Johns Hopkins University.

This kind of spirit makes us proud to have Johns Hopkins University as a neighbor.

WALTER J. PASCIAK
Executive Director

Supermarket questions

Dear AFRO:

There has been considerable discussion in City Council and adverse publicity in the papers about the proposed supermarket to be located in the 1700 block of E. Lombard St.

All three of the Fifth District councilmen voted against the ordinance at the second reading. We in the First District are wondering why the Fifth District should oppose a project that is exclusively confined to our area.

What does the Fifth District have against us? Do people in northwest Baltimore know better than we do what our shopping needs are?

We are tired of having either to deal with second rate stores in the community or take our business outside of the neighborhood.

The vast majority of us, according to our survey, travel a mile or more to do our shopping.

I am certain that the people in northwest Baltimore are not traveling comparable distances.

Frankly, we are perplexed. Why should northwest Baltimore oppose the effort we are making to improve our community?

People have tried to confuse the issue of the city's involvement. All the city is doing is the basic site preparation.

This is standard procedure for the city, and if there had not been city participation in the revitalization of the Inner Harbor, Old Town and other urban renewal areas, revitalization would never have taken place.

This project has received considerable community support and has the unanimous endorsement of the First District.

It deserves to be passed by City Council.

THOMAS WEIMER,
President
Citizens for Washington
Hill, Inc.

Bateman citizens concerned

Dear AFRO:

Recently our neighborhood, as many other neighborhoods in predominantly black areas, slowly but surely has been turning into a rat infested ghetto and going to the dogs and cats.

Our tenants are no longer obeying the city trash collection code and are littering the streets and alleys with trash, garbage and refuse.

We, the homeowners, are disgusted because of the unsightly conditions and feel that we need more cooperation in seeing that the laws are enforced and better service given because of the high property taxes we are forced to pay.

We have called our councilmen. We have called the Department of Sanitation and Health Department concerning the rats, but it all has been to little or no avail.

We realize that the landlords can not keep a day-to-day vigil on their property but somehow something should be done to make tenants aware of the fact that they are responsible for their personal trash collection, that it be securely stored until picked up and not placed on the street or in the alley for the dogs, cats and rats to scatter.

This causes a neighborhood to lose its beauty, deteriorate and become a ghetto.

At one time we were very proud of our neighborhood but every passing year it seems to get more tenants who are less interested than the year before and who have no pride in their immediate surroundings.

As residents of Bateman Avenue, we are asking the neighbors to do their part in helping to restore the beauty of our neighborhood and try to keep it a place where we can be proud to come home.

The city can not do it alone.

The landlord can only do his part by providing trash cans.

The rest is up to the residents.

Concerned Citizens
of Bateman Avenue

Liked photog's work

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, I would like to thank you for sending the photographer, Miss Norma Spencer, to take pictures of the activities during the Christmas Party for the 4-H Club on Dec. 18.

Miss Spencer is the same photographer who took pictures at my Fashion Show at Dunbar High School on May 22, 1976. On each occasion, Miss Spencer has presented herself as a courteous and most accommodating person.

She is to be congratulated for a job "well done" in each instance.

MRS. BEVERLY REID
Christmas Party
Committee Member

AFRO Line helped

Dear AFRO:

We are writing to express our heartfelt thanks to AFRO Line.

Last month our landlord wrote us saying that we owed him $396. We told you that we owed nothing and with your help we were able to prove it.

Please accept our thanks because we need people like you.

MR. AND MRS.
HAROLD WILLIAMSON

People are reading

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

NONFICTION

JUDY, Gerold Frank (ML420.G253F7)
A MAN CALLED INTREPID, William Stevenson (DH10.S85?8)
CHANGE LOBSTERS AND DANCE, Lillie Palmer (PN2658.P2A33)
WORLD OF OUR FATHERS, Irving Howe (FL28.9.J5H6)

FICTION

A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS, Cynthia Freeman
CARRIE, Stephen King

AFRO credo

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

- Whether it has kept faith with the common people;
- Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;
- Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;
- Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

DECEMBER 24, 1920
(From the Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

Young Beat — by larry young

A conversation with MLK Jr.

Jan. 15 was the 48th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In commemoration, Young Beat presents a fictional conversation it would have with this man of God, had he been alive to talk with today.

Dr. King, I'm bogged down in the paralysis of analysis. We have in Baltimore political fights between East Baltimore politicos versus West Baltimore politicos.

No one seems to want both sides to understand that our community suffers and this split between us helps the man, not us. No brag, just fact.

I have often prayed that if not yours truly, that someone must emerge powerful enough, dramatic enough, morally appealing enough, so that people of goodwill, labor liberals, intellectuals, students, poor people themselves, begin to put pressure on the politicians to get it together or else.

—

Dr. King, a man from Plains, Ga., was sworn-in as President of the United States yesterday. This peanut farmer when he was governor, hung your picture in the State Capitol of Georgia.

Many of us are counting on him to seriously respond to black interests.

If President Carter brings us together, it will not be by design, but rather, like others have done throughout history, by forcing us to recognize a common threat.

Yes, we hope Jimmy Carter will be our friend. Yet I feel we must give a priority to seeking new working coalitions, to rejuvenate flagging civil rights organizations and to set aside, at least temporarily, some private agendas in order to support broader goals.

Despite having elected a Democratic United States senator Paul Sarbanes, we must ask for our return from him, too. He must not be given a Carte Blanche. More about the black vote and Sarbanes in a later Young Beat Column.

Having voted in extremely large numbers for Jimmy Carter, would you not agree Dr. King, that blacks who are in position to speak out and be heard, must systematically voice both their approval and disapproval of administration programs, as well as of the people who run those programs.

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Dr. King, will we as a people learn how infamous the "crab barrel" technique is? Who are they to decide that X or O can be given proper recognition? Why the character assassinations? The person who is making it, not wanting the young folk to make it, too. The big shots, looking down at the little folk. Oh, don't you hurt inside when you look down at your young people hurting each other?

Rev. King, I do feel a little ray of hope that a little lad nine years old gave to me on Friday morning, Jan. 14 at the second annual YMCA Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast. The youngster's name is Rodnee Green, a 4th grade student. Rodney recited from your "I Have A Dream" speech, without a flaw. Yes, we have hope for the younger generation.

—

Oh! Rev. King, you were taken suddenly from us, deprived by an assassin of the chores to lead one's people.

But, sir, the principles and the purposes for which you labored continue to live.

Our community admittedly was shocked, but not paralyzed, and we can move again toward the high goals of obtaining our fair share.

Dr. King, cities even in 1977, share many of the problems faced by smaller communities and rural areas, but in the crowded urban environment, they are compounded by those conditions which are unique to the city.

City residents must breathe the emissions of suburban automobiles which travel into work every morning, and travel out in the evening to escape the noise and dirt of the city.

—

City children play in the streets over which the automobiles travel, inhaling the gases and dirt left behind.

The alleys behind homes are havens for rats which feast on garbage set out for collection.

The dirt found on streets and in the air has much greater concentration of harmful particulate matter in the city, than in the less dense suburban and rural areas.

No one person or agency can single - handedly solve the vast urban problems, but each can play a part in assuring that, in the future, our cities will be pleasant and healthy for all who choose to live in an urban environment.

I pledge to continue this fight as my contribution to one of your many visions.

In another three or four weeks, I'll once again have a conversation with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Turner Station is fighting back

By Rev. William E. Johnson
Pastor Union Baptist Church
Turner Station

Who is responsible for the protection of health regulations in Turner Station, which is supposed to be a part of Baltimore County?

The residents are quite alarmed and perturbed about the attitudes of county officials who have no regard for these citizens who are taxed and yet, without representation, are denied the rights and privileges afforded other county residents.

This community has made several appeals to the elected officials of Baltimore County about the conditions that have plagued this community for years.

Such conditions are dead fish kills which carry horrendous odors that made it impossible to breathe, especially during the hot months, also layers of soot that's covering window panes of homes in this area.

An odor that impairs one's breathing causes the residents of this area to have to close up their homes (all windows, doors, etc.) for the summer in order to get relief from whatever causes the odor.

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Yet, our state government permitted the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company to erect a Synthetic Gas Plant without any consideration given to the aforementioned problems that this community believes are detrimental to their health and deterioration of their community.

This permit that our state government granted to the Gas and Electric Company by the Natural Water Resource Administration was issued after the plant had been constructed and with no prior notification or hearings that are required by the state law.

It's hard to conceive that our county executives and elected officials would give priority to an income resource over lives they represent.

—

This plant has already created a noise problem that shakes the homes in this area.

Several telephone calls have been made about the noise as well as the fish kill and the odor and nothing has been done to solidify this problem which has forced this community to seek help from the federal government in Washington, D.C.

We will no longer stand back and allow those we put our trust and faith in to sell us down the drain. Ted Venetulous has no answers and neither does anyone in his department.

Members of this community have united and will do all they can to stop this kind of barbaric treatment that's plaguing human lives.

We are being supported by "Friends of the Earth" as well as the "Wild Life Federation."

Meetings will be held every first Tuesday of the month in various churches of the community.

All community members are urged to attend these very important meetings.

The next meeting will be held at the Union Baptist Church, 105 Main St. Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

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.

"It was like someone else had received the award so I didn't get excited. Now, I feel real good. It means a lot when your peers recognize you."

These words came from Miss Margaret A. Spriggs, who was recently named Secretary of the Year by the Monumental Chapter of the National Secretaries Association (MSA).

Miss Spriggs, a native Baltimorean and daughter of the late Vernon T. and Lucille Jones Spriggs is a graduate of Douglass High School, Class of 1945.

For the past 20 years she has been secretary to the Honorable George L. Russell Jr. and has been active in all phases of MSA. For the past two years she has served as chairman of the Future Secretaries Association at Southern High School.

In addition to this, Miss Spriggs is a member of the Central YWCA, Twiggs, a social and charity organization and the Metro Democrats. She is a member of the Metropolitan Methodist Church but attends Douglass Memorial regularly.

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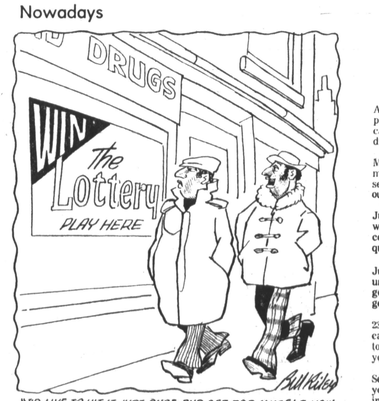
Miss Spriggs has two sisters, Vivian S. Sellman, a computer operator and Phyliss C. Spriggs, a nurse and three brothers, William G. Fletcher, a lab technician in Chicago, Emory D. Spriggs, mixologist and Vernon T. Spriggs Jr., carpenter and painter.

Judges for the contest naming our honoree were Miss Gwen Miller, associate professor at Essex Community College; Ms. Dorothy Newton, secretary to Judge Martin Greenfield and Ms. Carole Nicholson, account executive for Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, Inc.

MISS MARGARET A. SPRIGGS

Nowadays



"I'D LIKE TO HIT IT JUST ONCE AND SEE FOR MYSELF HOW SOON A FOOL AND HIS MONEY IS PARTED."

Smile

A young bride looking for advice asked, "What is your husband's favorite dinner?" The experienced housewife replied, "Most anything I haven't got."

..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: What does the sign posted in the bank, "Insured by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation" mean? — C. S.

ANSWER: According to the U.S. Government Manual 1975-76, basically it means that your account is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to $40,000.

"The FDIC was established to promote and preserve public confidence in banks and to protect the money supply through provision of insurance coverage for bank deposits."

In the event your bank declares bankruptcy, FDIC has the following options to protect the depositors:

(1) It can close the bank and reimburse the depositors immediately in amounts up to $40,000.

(2) It can arrange for another bank to assume the depositors' accounts.

(3) If closing the bank leaves the depositors without a bank in the area, FDIC can set up a Deposit Insurance National Bank.

QUESTION: I recall reading that consumers are partially responsible for high cost of goods. Is this true? If so, why? — K. J.

ANSWER: According to literature distributed by the Consumer Protection Division, consumers who "do not treat businesses the way they want businesses to treat them" can ultimately affect other consumers.

Consumers have rights but they also have responsibilities. To name a few:

1. Show respect for any merchandise you handle. Carelessly damaging merchandise adds to the cost for all consumers.

2. Don't be a shoplifter. You and other consumers eventually pay the price.

3. Don't be a chronic "used goods returner." You help raise the prices. You, yourself may be the victim of buying used goods.

4. Be honest when filling out credit applications. Dishonest answers cause hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

5. If a clerk makes a mistake in your favor, be as quick to point it out as you would if the mistake were in the company's favor.

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 — 383-3680 — about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — 383-2374

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE — 396-1111
FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-1313
POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — An opportunity will present itself concerning your career. For best benefits deal directly with those in charge.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 20) — Use your own ideas and manage the present situation your self. If at all possible, leave others out all together.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Two different sources will prove valuable to you. Be conservative in your actions but be quick.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Do not leave a stone unturned until you achieve your goal. If you work hard enough a generous award awaits you.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Failure to use your talent can cause you to lose it. Make it a point to use your mind as much as you do your legs.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Don't be discouraged if your project does not show an immediate return. Rewards will come in the very near future.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Your affections for another must be displayed openly. Otherwise you run the risk of losing out in this game of love.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Be accurate in the possibilities of the new project you are trying to gain support for. Do not exaggerate.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be sure you consider more than one side and let others know precisely where you stand. You may effect a tremendous change.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Another will try to use your good nature to soft-soap you. Demand your share of the earned reward.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Regard the results of recent efforts with complete honesty. Otherwise, you could make the same mistakes again.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Take on no more work than you can manage comfortably. Be confident in yourself and you will inspire others.