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 Md.

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)



## Jackson's school rhetoric

(Guest Editorial)

As one who admired the supportive and active involvement of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, among a host of other well-known young black ministers and community activists, in the non-violent efforts of the late 1950's and 1960's, to end social and economic injustice in America, it is difficult to understand the anomalous and perplexing patterns of Rev. Jackson's focus in his "Push for Excellence."

The gist of Jackson's so called advocacy of excellence is essentially vacuous and reckless rhetoric without substance.

It is unfortunate in view of the initial success that he was having with his "Operation Push" that Jackson has intrepidly sallied into an area (i.e., education) in which he has demonstrated by his public pronouncements, both here in Baltimore and earlier in Washington, D.C., an abysmal and disquieting understanding of the dynamics of education and the comprehensive and fundamental. essentials necessary for genuine excellence in education.

Jackson via clever language, sloganeering, a charismatic appeal and rhetorical flourishes, evades the critical and fundamental issues of galloping and runaway unemployment among black youths and adults in Baltimore and across the nation, erosion of financial support for schools as reflected in staff and materials and supplies, sequestration of a disproportionate number of blacks and other minorities in wretched housing and a retrenchment and retreat, as depicted in court decisions and the mood of the nation, in support of the civil and human liberties.

The essence of Jackson's appeal, directed primarily to black youths and their parents, is to blame the "victims" for the shoddy and deplorable state in which they find themselves in our socio-economic political order.

The simplistic and misleading prescription that he offers, in fact, accentuates the following: work hard; straighten your hair; keep clean; show respect; come to school.

In short, religiously practice the virtues of the Protestant Ethic.

Jackson must know, in his more reflective moments, that just as his parents in North Carolina preached these virtues to him 36 years ago, countless black parents, teachers and community leaders in Baltimore and across the nation have imbued their children with the need for hard work, respect and the necessity of education long before his birth.

The essential problem, as the classical portrayal of "Roots" has just demonstrated, the larger white society has refused to accord black Americans in this nation equality of opportunity.

It should be noted that equality of opportunity is not measured by profession, but results that are measurable.

Jackson assured an audience at Bethel AME Church, among other things, that "The parents have been too detached. Teachers have got bogged down in legalism — the methods of education — and materialism."

The fact of the matter is that innumerable parents and teachers, black and white, are daily rendering here and in other school districts the kind of social and educational prescription exhorted by Jackson.

The missing ingredients in their efforts are the media spotlight and insufficient monetary resources.

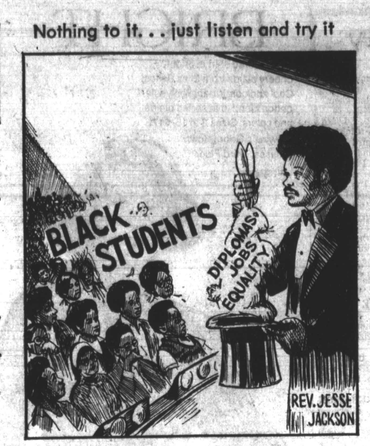
In the midst of the enormous travail and social, political and economic exclusions that afflict black and poor people here and the nation, Jackson's rhetorial histrionics for excellence in education constitute opportunism and a apostasy of the first magnitude.

Long after the euphoria of his messages has ended and memories clouded in terms of what he says, black parents, teachers and community groups will be working to extirpate the causal factors that have created the socio-economic educational "frankensteins" that continue to plague the body politic.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson should know that it is this truth that holds the promise for freeing all of us.

Samuel L. Banks
Coordinator of Social Studies, Baltimore Public Schools

Nothing to it. . . just listen and try it




## New round in debate by Chandler, Embry

By Cleveland A. Chandler

Robert C. Embry Jr., commissioner, department of Housing and Community Development has responded to my letter of complaint and criticism about HCD's record of performance under his direction during the last eight years.

He contends that HCD's performance in equal opportunity and black majority participation is better than any other Baltimore City agency, or with the city government as a whole.

Even if we could agree on this claim, the substance of my original criticism remains untouched.

A little, compared to almost nothing is not nearly enough for a majority black population in Baltimore City, or a majority female population, or for a national administration whose election in Maryland can be traced to the same black majority in the city of Baltimore.

HCD's record in promoting equal opportunity may indeed speak for itself, but it does not speak favorably. Neither does it speak for a commissioner whose deeds indicate strong feelings about equal opportunity in the right direction.

Mr. Embry's memory is equally faulty. He cannot claim that he was never associated with BURHA, when he replaced the BURHA Commission as commissioner of HCD and continued on the same path with greater concentration of power in his hands.

The account of appeals to him by me and others about compliance with equal opportunity laws in HCD in public housing, and in the Inner Harbor plan, is clearly written in the records of the Activists for Fair Housing, the Baltimore City Community Relations Commission and in the media.

Mr. Embry responded to our claim that poor families were displaced without adequate rehousing in the Inner Harbor project by saying that more homes have been built in the Inner Harbor than those destroyed.

Are the families who occupy new homes in the Inner Harbor the same as those who were wiped out? Not likely. Time, high rents and housing prices would reduce returnees to a very low percentage.

What happened to the others? The only way to answer in the affirmative is to make adequate provisions at the time that families are displaced, if not before.

HCD's usual approach to this problem is the same as in Park Heights, that is to post expensive signs in the area. "New Homes Are Coming! New Parks are Coming! A New Outlook" when the ground has not been broken for new homes and no one there will ever know what will happen in the next generation.

HCD's record under Mr. Embry is worse in employment, business enterprise and economic development, as far as the black and female majority populations are concerned.

In comparison with federal standards and other cities like Atlanta, Washington, D.C. or St. Louis; Baltimore is far behind.

Again Mr. Embry compares HCD with city agencies in a city Administration which is doing virtually nothing.

Belatedly, he claims that HCD was "the first city agency to adopt an affirmative action plan and hire an equal opportunity staff," but there has been little or no affirmative action.

For example, the federal office of Minority Business Enterprise reported recently that there is a total of 7,958 minority owned businesses in the State of Maryland.

Of these, only 638 (8 per cent) are in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. This number includes firms owned by orientals and other minority groups in the city and five surrounding counties.

When the figure is adjusted to include black-owned firms in Baltimore City only, it becomes almost nothing and going down.

The same federal office of Minority Business Enterprise reported that there are 121 minority-owned construction firms in the State of Maryland with paid employees; only 58 minority construction firms in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, including the self-employed and minority firms with paid employees.

When this number is adjusted for black-owned construction firms in Baltimore City, there is less than almost nothing to report.

What could a quick call to the Minority Contractor's Association reveal about HCD's efforts to promote minority business involvement? That it is doing more than any other city agency?" How much is less than nothing?

Apparently, Mr. Embry does not wish to count houses, people, black businesses, or dollars correctly when it comes to informing the public about what HCD is or is not doing.

In my previous letter, I referred to all public funds administered by HCD, including funds from previous bond issues for business and economic development, capital improvement funds and funds from the operating budget that are used for such purposes, as well as federal block grant money.

Federal community development funds are only a small part of more than $30 million annually of federal block grant money, and a smaller part of HCD's total budget.

Certainly, 90 per cent of federal block grant money received by HDC is not going to or through black neighborhoods, not even 10 per cent.

Furthermore, there was no inference that HCD should stop funding the Park Heights Community Corporation, and Mr. Embry knows that. His response proves my point that he is using and manipulating people to cover up the facts.

No personal cause is served by asking for good faith compliance with the Equal opportunity laws of this nation, state and city.

Likewise, no personal cause is served by denial of equal opportunity and footdragging.

Finally, I only propose to Mr. Embry and HCD that we move on toward the goal of justice and equality long delayed, in the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act.

## Now and then — by g. james fleming

## Tennessee is the state to watch

Something different and historic has happened in Tennessee. A white U.S. District judge has decreed that the Nashville branch of the University of Tennessee, predominately white, shall be merged with the predominately black Tennessee State University, under the governing body, and administration of the latter university.

This was the only way Judge Frank Gray Jr. found that he could bring about integration in state university training in Nashville. This case has been in his court for over eight years, with no real effort on the part of the University of Tennessee to obey the law relating to desegregation of educational and other institutions.

In the past, whenever courts of city or state administrations have ordered integration or desegregation by merger, it has always meant black institutions being taken over, being swallowed up by white institutions, with white heads and leadership.

On the public school level, it has meant at least 60 per cent white students and 40 per cent blacks.

Most of the time it has also meant no meaningful integration of teachers and almost no inclusion of blacks in the higher brackets of school administration.

Most of white Tennessee is howling! It is a fair guess that the University of Tennessee will appeal this decision. That is why Tennessee is the state to watch.

To watch also is the Nixon-Ford Supreme Court whenever this case reaches that highest judicial body.

CARTERS ARE DIFFERENT — Whatever else we may say about President and Mrs. Carter, they are different, and innovatingly and courageously so.

It took courage, for instance, for them to enroll Amy, 9 years of age, in a public school, against the advice of "older heads" and the Secret Service, and it took some courage for the President to face the American people (millions), wearing a sweater while delivering his first "Fireside Chat."

Now the Carters have taken a giant step in bringing an ex-convict to live in the White House as a nursemaid for Amy. But, Mary Fitzpatrick is not "just an ex-convict."

She took care of Amy from age 2 to 6, while Miss Fitzpatrick was a prisoner on work release because of her good conduct.

The "release" took her into the governor's mansion. Undoubtedly, she impressed the Carter family as "having something," as worthy of "another chance," although she had killed a man in a domestic quarrel.

Miss Fitzpatrick, just 33, was invited to the President's inauguration, and attended, on special release; and she looked forward to a parole in April. Now, however, she is given an early reprieve, on petition of Mrs. Rosalynn Carter.

Not everyone approves of an "ex-convict" (a killer) in the White House. As we see it, however, this latest Carter gesture may inspire some of the rest of us to be kind and helpful to those who have made one bad step, and to open our doors to those who need rehabilitation outside a prison, who need a chance to start a new life.

DOWNTOWN STORES — The majority population in Baltimore City — black — is not concerned enough about the movement of downtown department stores and other businesses away from downtown, often away from the city.

In other city areas, too, there are signs of leading stores moving out or modifying their prestigiousness.

This column does not have the answer, but of one thing we are sure: Blacks are having none, or little, positive voice in the plans for "rehabilitation" and blacks have had no vote in the corporate decisions to restrict or move operations.

Blacks are also part of the problem because, while white business flees to the suburbs, blacks with money follow them and boast of their doing business "only in Reisterstown," "only in Towson" or "only in Columbia". Put negatively, too many boast that they "never go downtown."

We know this is dealing simplistically with a complex problem, not unique to Baltimore, but this is one way to express our sorrow over knowing that Hochschild-Kohn will be closing its downtown store by July 1, and as we see shopping centers, such as Northwood, with too many empty stores.

## Washington report — by parren j. mitchell

## '78 slate questions

Has Rep. Parren J. Mitchell's call for a black to be included on at least one slate by a candidate for governor next year started the political ball rolling in the right direction?

For now, an assessment is hard to make.

The four state senators with political organizations, who were elected from within the Seventh Congressional District served by Rep. Mitchell, have some questions. All do not have the same questions and concerns.

One is whether this is a replay of the last mayor's election when threats were made relative to black candidates being taken on citywide slates — without any discussions with the senators or leaders of other major political organizations?

Some of the state senators are asking what leverage their congressman will have in winning a slot for a black on any major candidate's slate?

Also, there is the question of whether Mitchell's call already has rekindled West Baltimore-East Baltimore tensions that could pose a threat to unity in the community?

Others are concerned that requesting and-or having a black candidate on the slate not be considered a substitute for cabinet posts and other top-level appointive jobs—very few of which are held by blacks.

There also is the question of whether having a black candidate on the slate of a man unsatisfactory to the mass of black voters would not be counter-productive. One senator suggested there will be very little for blacks to choose from among the potential candidates being publicized.

Another question is whether or not, even at this early date, at least one and possibly two of the state senators have linked themselves to aspirants.

The Legislative Black Caucus has scheduled an important leadership conference for April.

The AFRO has been informed that the hope is none of the influential politicians will become wedded to any candidate prior to that time.

If Rep. Mitchell's call for a black candidate on a major ticket has done nothing else, it surely must have put the statewide politicians on notice and warned leaders of the quagmire they should strive to avoid.

Thus far the would-be candidates have said little, but going on what has been heard and on the basis of public record, the senator who suggests there is little to choose from, has an inescapable point.

It may be that if four or five slates are fielded, black politicians would best serve their interests by running their own candidates for selected posts.

They could be white or black. The criteria would be that they be qualified, be potential winners and promise more than we can expect from others in the race.

We think there are better Democrats than have been heard from. If not, there must be better Republicans who, the record shows, can win statewide with black support.

## What would you do with tax rebate?

This week's column is a departure from my usual format, but I NEED your help!

As most people know by now, President Carter is proposing to the Congress a major tax package. Part of the president's proposal is a tax rebate plan which, in theory, is fairly simple.

Each taxpayer would receive a tax rebate check for $50. Additionally, taxpayers would receive $50 extra for each dependent. For example, therefore, single people would receive $50, married couples would receive $100, a family of three would receive $150, a family of four would receive $200, and so on.

Prior to final congressional action, there will be much debate on Carter's proposed rebate plan.

Several key questions will have to be addressed. "Should the government give any tax rebate?" "Is the $50 plan adequate?" "Will the president's program stimulate the economy?" "What will people really do with their rebate checks?"

During the congressional discussion, I would like to be able to tell my colleagues here in the House of Representatives exactly what people are thinking about the proposed rebate program.

Here is where you can help me greatly.

Please figure out approximately how much money you and your family would receive under the President's $50 rebate program and write to me, as soon as is possible, and tell me exactly what you would do with your check if, for example, you received it next week.

In general terms, I would like to know, for instance, would you pay a bill? Or, would you buy new clothes?

Perhaps, you would put the money in a savings account. Would you save it to go towards a car payment? Or, maybe you would give it to your church or a charitable organization?

Write and tell me as much as you feel comfortable with about exactly what you would do with this "extra" money. Cards, letters or notes should be sent to: The Honorable Parren J. Mitchell, U.S. House of Representatives, 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515.

My staff and I will review each and every letter and compile the results.

Naturally, no individual names will be used. The general results, however, will be shared with every member of the House of Representatives and with you in a subsequent AFRO column.

Needless to say, any other ideas you may have, beyond your individual spending needs, are also welcome.

Most importantly, the Congress needs to know how you feel.

I am waiting to hear from you.

## Kill the justice rip-off bill

The effort to clip black people's wings in the halls of justice goes on unabated.

Insidious H.B. 697, sponsored by the Mandel Administration, obviously would have dire consequences for blacks if passed.

Supreme Bench Judge Joseph C. Howard sounded the clearest possible warning in urging the Black Legislative Caucus to oppose it.

Poor whites also would be victimized by the legislation.

Among the first to side with black legislators in fighting this new court scheme by the Mandel forces should be that large group of white and black lawyers who represent minority clients in Baltimore City.

For one of the disastrous consequences of H.B. 697 would be to reinstitute a kind of judicial white flight from Baltimore civil courts that was knocked out when Chapter 454 (H.B. 933) was ruled unconstitutional last year by the Maryland Court of Appeals.

That law was passed by the Maryland Legislature in 1976. During its short life lawyers asked to transfer more than 500 civil cases from Baltimore to areas where very few blacks live.

Under provisions of the law which required no proof a fair trial could not be obtained in Baltimore City — where the population is more than 50 per cent black — civil case transfers were being sought at a record pace.

The racist theory is that where blacks and poor whites sue for damages, the defendants, usually white and either wealthy or and represented by powerful interests such as insurance companies, will have the advantage before white judges and all-white or mostly white juries.

Even when this nasty connotation is not linked to these transfers, there is the unquestioned disadvantage blacks and poor whites suffer in being forced to go through the extra expenses of a trial conducted some distance from home.

A key reason the Appeals Court held the previous law unconstitutional was the fact that Baltimore City's court system is not unified.

H.B. 697 would unify the Baltimore City court system.

And one likely result could be that poor Baltimore residents would get ripped off by the judicial system that is supposed to guarantee them justice.

In addition to that, as Judge Howard noted, the proposed law, without amendment, would lock the city court system into a courthouse staffing system which is racially discriminatory by any standards.

H.B. 697 is a dangerous bill that should be killed.

## 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



## Help your fellowman

Dear AFRO:
Since those of you who have watched "Roots" have varied opinions, how about together agreeing that "Roots" awoke some to the struggles of our ancestors — whether or not we believe we are descendants of Africa.

Together let's try to outwit the so-called white race of people, not with violent moves but with our minds. This can be accomplished in one small way with a huge response.

The young and old alike are important to everyone, but after reading in the Feb. 1., edition of the AFRO, the plight of Aunt Alice, it made me wonder. Why are we allowing our old to live in these conditions?

It would help if we could educate our people; not with college attendance but with respect for each other that comes from the models of correct behavior.

The elderly would not be afraid to go and seek help in finding better housing. The blacks who know the loopholes of the housing department should have mass meetings to educate the public of what rightfully belongs to every one regardless of race, involving seeking better housing.

Even though the TV version did not show the strong togetherness of the tribal Africans, let us band together and prove that this togetherness has a spark that has to be kindled in order to form again.

I have witnessed blacks in government and other types of social service agencies treat people with no respect. They have no regard for a person knowing full well that they could have been their mother, father, aunt, uncle or grandparents seeking help.

This type of displayed behavior turns the elderly or person in need away and they say they don't want to leave their home with the rodents, but that's not true, they just don't want to bother other people.

Wake up Baltimore, blacks are in the position socially, politically and scholastically to rule the city thoroughly in many agencies, but instead they take the jobs only in their own interests.

Let us cleanse our hearts and begin to say, "I will try to help a fellow black today."

OLABIN JONES

## Questions about story

Dear AFRO:
It is with much concern, bordering on discussion that I write you concerning the Jan. 25 article regarding the trial in the murder of Mrs. Saundra McClain.

My letter comes some weeks after the published article as I have wanted to write when feeling a minimum sense of emotionalism and while showing more respect towards you than I feel has been shown my family.

I assume that many privileges accompany your interpretation of "freedom of the press."

However I query if courtesy and consideration for individuals operate when a decision is made to publish an article by your staff.

More specifically, prior to your printing the story and name of Mrs. Saundra McClain on the front page of your newspaper, did you consider the thoughts and feelings of her young son and family?

If perhaps some thoughts were entertained would it have been too considerate to apprise, if not consult our family, previous to publication of your article?

The article gave the impression that someone on your staff attended the courtroom proceedings. Would it have been too professional to enlighten our family, at that time as to your intentions?

Finally, I recognize your primary concern is to sell papers. But I would like to assure you that long after you have reaped the benefits of any story, individuals, their families and friends have to live with the accompanying pain and injustices which can arise from flagrantly injudicious, poor quality and cursory journalism.

JANICE McCULLOUGH
Sister of Mrs. C. Saundra Clain

## An act of God?

Dear AFRO:
Religious people may find comfort during the bitter cold, explaining it by saying it is "an act of God."

What else is "an act of God? Earthquakes, droughts, blazing heat, wars, famines, etc.?

There must be more than one God — a good God would not do or permit such catastrophic things.

That is the way this agnostic sees it.

E. J. SMALL

## Blessed black American

Dear AFRO:
I am what I am — a black American. I admire my African brothers and sisters, but, I am no more African than I am Indian or caucasian. which is evidenced in my appearance.

I am more concerned about the heritage I'm creating for others than what has been created for me.

You see, my ancestors bequeathed the best they had just as I will try to do.

I am truly rich in health, breath, joy and laughter, appreciation for myself and others.

So, no matter where I came from, I am a fortunate personality, a blessed black American.

BERNICE B. LEWIS

## The American dream

Dear AFRO:
If "democracy" is the American dream, and "racism" is its nightmare, then Americans who insist that theirs is a democracy are "dreaming within a nightmare."

The terms which America claims to hold dear are "democracy" and "majority rule." The term she claims to disdain is "colonialism."

Yet, the following definitions of these terms will prove that America is just the opposite of what she claims to be.

Democracy is "a state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges."

Yet I find America's non-whites being continually denied rights and privileges equal to those of whites.

"Majority rule" originally meant: the "votes" in the majority shall rule. Its meaning has been cleverly corrupted, however, to mean: the "race" in the majority shall rule.

It is this "racist" theme which makes America not a democracy, but a "racial" monarchy.

Finally, the word "colonialism" is defined as "the policy of a nation seeking to extend or retain its authority over other peoples or territories."

America, therefore, must be condemned for her colonialist control of many Caribbean and South Pacific Islands, and of Panama; and for aiding and siding with those white nations which oppress and exploit the non-white peoples around the world.

This is the true America. The other is but a dream.

And so, be not angry with those such as myself for daring to speak the truth of what America is.

Be angry, instead, with America for daring to claim she is what she is not.

FRANK NEWTON

## Smile

Drinking much coffee is the sign of affluence.

A financial genius is one who can earn money faster than his family can spend it.

## Young beat — by larry young

## The death penalty and you

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

Today we view yesterday's reasoning for tomorrow. Is our Democracy advancing or regressing? We hear expressions by Delegate Walter Dean, of the 41st District, concerning the death penalty.

The Maryland General Assembly is again faced with a Death Penalty bill. The governor plans to introduce a new death penalty bill and the prognosis is that the bill will be passed and signed into law.

Thus Maryland will again put on the books a particularly repugnant piece of legislation.

The citizens of Maryland and in particular black citizens should protest death penalty bills. Most of the people killed through such laws are poor, black men.

It is a form of punishment that is highly selective and discriminatory. I once read an article in a well-known magazine some years ago that 90 per cent of the persons on death row are poor, male and black.

Additionally less than one-tenth of one-per cent of convicted murderers are sentenced to death.

There are still many questions about the nature of justice in Maryland. This state has the third highest incarceration rate of the 50 states.

And there is still the memory in the minds of sensitive citizens of the use of the death penalty and how it has been applied in Maryland during the past decades.

The reason for the re-institution of the death penalty is its alleged ability to deter murder and other heinous crimes. There is no evidence that death penalties deter murder.

By whatever measures are important there is no evidence of deterrent.

In Maryland, the imposition of the old death penalty law did not lead to a decrease in the homicide rate. Nor is there any evidence, when states are reviewed comparatively, that the existence of the death penalty has any relationship to the homicide rate.

In the case of Gary Gilmore, the death penalty may become a means to fulfill a psychological need to commit suicide.

Sometimes during the course of a legislative session the reasons for certain types of legislation may be forgotten. Some particularly heinous act prompted thoughts about capital punishment and by the time the bill becomes a law, the specific crime has been forgotten and all that remains is a feeling that somehow the new law will prevent the kinds of murders that precipitated the cries for capital punishment.

The psychological "trigger" for the current round of capital punishment bills, is the murder of a Baltimore City councilman by a deranged black man.

Earlier another black man, also a frustrated individual, firebombed a house and killed several persons.

Heinous acts, but, neither act could have been prevented by either man thinking about the death penalty before committing it.

Conversely the murder of Hattie Carroll did not precipitate an outcry of death for her murderer, nor was there an outcry of death for the sniper who killed a policeman recently on Lombard Street.

Attorney, now Judge, Joseph Howard, risked his law career to point out judicial and legal inequalities in the administration of justice in the Maryland courts.

The use of the death penalty in any numbers will probably be a continuation of that selective process that sends members of minority groups to their deaths all out of proportion to their numbers in the population.

What is astonishing is the need and desire for the State of Maryland to consistently push for death penalties.

The dismal failure of capital punishment has been well documented, ranging from the discredited eye-for-eye technique of the Old Testament to the fact that more than 40 civilized nations have outlawed capital punishment.

AFRO readers should remember that one lesson of "Roots" is that death penalties did not deter individual slaves from attempting to escape.

A play currently being done, by the Arena Players, "None to Call Father," a depiction of Nat Turner's rebellion, clearly demonstrated that Turner knew that he was going to die and he sought his freedom for others, even when he knew that such an act would mean his own death.

In modern times, there are desperadoes, such as ideologically-oriented hijackers, Symbionese Liberation types and psychopaths who would not be deterred by death penalties.

The public itself is schizophrenic and ashamed of death penalties, because the executions are conducted in isolation. In nearly every case where the public has been a party to many executions and implementations of death penalties, that public has turned against the penalty as a particularly barbaric form of punishment.

Vengeance, the thirst for blood, and witnessing the killing of a human being has limited entertainment value for civilized and healthy members of society.

Maryland's call for a death penalty serves to obscure the reasons for mental aberrations that result in those types of crimes that precipitate the call for capital punishment.

Curiously, there is no loud strident call for the elimination of the social inequalities that caused a "wild-eyed sweating" black man to kill a city councilman who probably was viewed merely as an impersonal symbol of an unfeeling bureaucracy.

The murderer in all likelihood is the victim of society and the demand to kill him is the ultimate in blaming the victim for his own victimization.

Capital punishment is wrong.

It can not be administered fairly.

It puts the state in the official position of brutalizing its own citizens. It belies the Christian belief in the possible redemption of all human beings.

It places the state in the position of making a final, irreversible judgment on a human being. It is an anachronism that does not deserve the support of civilized people.

There is no obvious, tangible benefit in the passage of a capital punishment bill. Citizens of Maryland should make their voices heard against capital punishment.

## Salute of the 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 1557, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

Mrs. Audrey E. Williams was recently appointed assistant director for District Operations in the Department of Social Services.

In this new position, Mrs. Williams will direct the operation of the department's 21 social service centers. These centers, located throughout the city, are primarily responsible for the delivery of the department's income maintenance and social programs to over 200,000 people served by the program.

MRS. AUDREY B. WILLIAMS

Kalman R. Hettleman, who was named director last December, in making his first appointment noted, "The assistant director for district operations has a particular important, crucial role to play in the effective, responsible delivery of services by our district centers to low-income people throughout the city.

"I am confident that Mrs. Williams brings to this position not only the right leadership, ability and expertise, but a deep personal commitment to service...."

Mrs. Williams began her employment with the department in 1951. Her assignments have been case supervisor, district supervisor, division chief, chief of adult services and most recently, executive assistant to the director.

She is a graduate of Morgan State University and holds a master's degree in social work from Howard University.

Mrs. Williams has extensive community and professional experience. She was the first chairperson of Action for the Aging. She is a member of the City Commission on Aging, the Board of Directors of Lafayette Square Multi-Purpose Center, Board of Children's Fresh Air Society, the Grant Review Committee of the Area Agency on Aging and the United Fund.

Other memberships include the American Public Welfare Association, National Conference on Social Work, Child Welfare League of America, Maryland Conference of Social Concerns, Maryland League of Women Voters, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Howard University School of Social Work Alumnae Association.

Our honoree is the daughter of Mrs. Rosa Bolling, a one-time AFRO Mother of the Year, and the late Austin Williams.

She is married to Delmar Williams Sr., a postal worker. The couple has one son, Delmar Jr. a sophomore at Howard University. The family attends Trinity Baptist Church.

Austin Williams II, principal of P.S. No. 50 is Mrs. Williams' brother. Mrs. Rosa Wallace, a sister, teaches at P.S. No. 107.

Afro-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems. You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections and complaints and inquire about AFRO news stories and policies.

You need only to write a postcard to AFRO-Line, P. O. Box 1557, Baltimore, Md., 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address, and telephone number.

QUESTION: I have shopped in at least three Acme markets in the outlying sections of the city. During each of my visits, I failed to see black clerks in either store. Is this coincidental or could it be the hiring policy of the Acme chain?—G.L.

ANSWER: AFRO Line contacted J. F. Maurer, personnel manager of Acme Markets, Inc. Following is his reply:

"In response to your recent inquiry concerning our employment of minorities in certain Baltimore locations and a general inquiry concerning our hiring practices, let me first assure you that this company is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We hire only on the basis of qualifications and employment needs.

"I cannot give you a specific response as to the number of minorities employed in the stores you requested without making a visual inspection of those locations. As you know, we make this inspection yearly to fulfill our obligations under the federal law and that will be coming up within the next several weeks.

"Perhaps the problem you have brought to our attention is best defined as a lack of qualified black applicants. If that is the case, it may be well that there is a need to reach out into the community if individuals are not applying for these positions or if they are not qualified.

"Naturally turnover also impacts on our ability to hire."

"I am sure that implicit in your request for this information is a sincere desire to assist us. Accordingly, we would appreciate it if you would refer any qualified black applicants you may know of to us for review and selection.

"As a responsible resource within the community, we encourage your assistance in developing a means of making sure that individuals within the community are aware of our hiring practices and needs and that we are hereby able to solicit the best candidates for the job.

"We appreciate the opportunity that has presented itself by this contact and feel that positive results will flow from it. If we can provide any additional information at this time, please let us know."

QUESTION: My mother visited me recently and was appalled at the fact that I had a cord-connected radio in the bathroom. Isn't it safe as long as it is in an available receptacle?—ED.

ANSWER: According to the Safety Council, no it is not safe.

They further stated that many persons have been electrocuted because a cord connected radio fell in the bathtub.

They suggest that if you enjoy listening to music while bathing that you should play it in another room and turn up the volume.

## 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 — 383-3860

—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 — 234-2175 or 234-2412

SERVICE

ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-0213
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
RAT AND INSECT CONTROL — 396-4416

## STARS AND YOU

by astro

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — Indications are that you are displeased with present arrangements. A change is evidence in the making.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — It is impossible to occupy two places at the same time. In order to take advantage of an opportunity to gain should be more precise when planning your schedule.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — The ill mood of another will not last long. Be careful not to plan your activities around it.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — It is possible that there will be a change for the better in your life. Take complete advantage of another's offer of help.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Do not make decisions on your own. It could cause some irritation on the home front.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Now is the time to extend an invitation to an old friend of yours. However, be careful not to make promises you may not be able to keep.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Do all you can to prevent making another angry. Your little scheme could backfire.

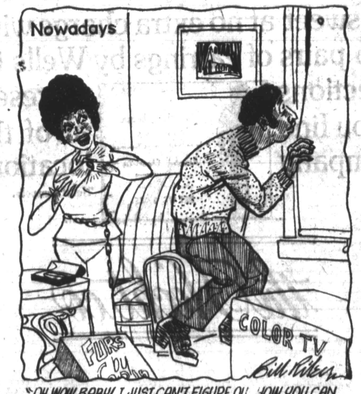
SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Virtues are counted and taken very seriously by others. Toot your own horn yourself. Do not wait for others to do it for you.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Grass that looks greener can soon turn brown. If you believe this, you will stick with your present mate.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Frugality is one thing. stinginess is another. Cease competition with persons better off financially than you are.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan 21-Feb. 19) — Because you are susceptible to flattery you may land in a world of trouble. Be on guard against sweet words.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Now is a good time to bend with the young. Or, at least pretend to.




"OH WOW, BABY! I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW YOU CAN AFFORD TO GIVE ME SUCH EXPENSIVE VALENTINE GIFTS!"