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. 12, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1892-1922. 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)

PAGE 4 MARCH 19, 1977

Du Burns moves up as City Council veep

That unanimous vote Monday which made Second District City Councilman Clarence "Du" Burns vice president of the 19-member body was significant in many ways.

For the first time in history, a black politician holds the Number Two post in the City Council.

Thus the 37-year-old East Baltimore Democrat, who preaches organization politics, becomes an important figure in the shaping of administration measures. Normally he would be floor leader for legislation sponsored by the mayor.

That role plus his chairmanship of one of the City Council's three major committees, Urban Affairs, should give Burns new political wallop and bring him additional public attention.

An ambitious man who attributes his success to having applied himself as a politician, Burns is expected to run in 1979 for the City Council presidency.

If he begins running for that post early, it means he will not take on Rep. Parren J. Mitchell for the Seventh District congressional seat—an office he has threatened to seek in the past.

Past differences in the City Council, based on race, liberal or conservative views and section of the city from which the councilmen were elected, were forgotten Monday when Burns was approved unanimously.

This should bode well for black appointive and elective gains in the months ahead but the determining factor likely is to be how much unity can be retained as political leaders get down to the business of shaping election tickets.

Du Burns already has said he hopes to impress upon young blacks the opportunities that could await them if they apply themselves.

The AFRO believes the real test of what they will be able to learn from Councilman Burns will be derived from the role he is able to play in working to achieve and maintain enough cooperation among black and white progressive politicians to bring about still more dramatic representative sharing of leadership posts in Baltimore City.

His past successes encourage us to believe that if Du applies himself to that role, both Baltimore's black students and non-students will be inspired and helped by his deserved new opportunity to render service to his community.

Caucus gets hard-nosed

The Legislative Black Caucus finally has begun to show it not only isn't kidding about being opposed to the restoration of the death penalty in Maryland but intends to fight hard against it.

The Caucus, headed by Senator Robert Douglass, is now making itself felt in an impressive manner in the House of Delegates.

Earlier, a member of the Caucus, Senator Clarence Mitchell III, in a one-man filibuster against the death penalty, fired the first big shot for the opposition.

Since his attack there has been no doubt that a fight was in store for those anxious to resume state murders in Maryland under the mistaken belief such a step will deter criminals. Executions have not eradicated nor probably deterred crime anywhere in the world.

The death penalty legislation before the General Assembly is one of those issues on which there can be no compromise. It is not one on which a legislator should be encouraged to vote yes in payment for some past or future political favor.

Black lawmakers certainly cannot barter on this life-and-death question.

There simply are no persuasive arguments in favor of the death penalty.

Something that does not work but at the same time discriminates against black and other poor citizens cannot be justified.

Every day the House delays final action on death penalty legislation, the better the chances to kill it later in the Senate.

Although many don't agree, we think even the short delay resulting from Senator Mitchell's filibuster will prove to have been important.

The Black Caucus is flexing its muscles on an important issue about which there admittedly is considerably honest disagreement. But the Caucus is on the right side and should stick to its guns no matter the cost.

'Poor' Dale Anderson

Once hard-nosed Dale Anderson, former Baltimore County executive, has filed a bankruptcy petition in U.S. District Court, indicating he is now a poor executive.

Back when he was riding high as the man who boasted of not wanting poor people in the mostly white suburban county, it's doubtful he ever dreamed his own financial status some day might mean—if judged by the standards he politicized—he could be considered a not-too-desirable citizen.

Back then, Dale Anderson praised hard-working, honest, taxpaying, lawkeeping, middleclass citizens.

That was before he was jailed for extortion, conspiracy and tax evasion.

He now claims debts of $289,617, including a $100,000 debt to Joel Kline, a convicted stock broker.

Oddly, this former top county official who placed so much stock in good, decent taxpaying citizens, claims he owes most of his debts to the federal and state tax collectors.

Anderson denies he owes the taxes for the year 1969 through 1972, but the Internal Revenue Service and the state comptroller each seeks $63,617.18 from him.

We don't think Dale Anderson is poor like some of the people he once didn't want in Baltimore County. But when he looks back on his record and some of the positions he voiced about people who truly were poor, it would not be surprising if he felt himself poorer than he financially is.

Pollack was fighter

James H. (Jack) Pollack's death ended a long political career which, from his supporters' view, and that of many unbiased observers, was as successful as that of any of the nation's major political "bosses."

His supporters included many black Baltimoreans. He helped some; used others.

Even those of us who could not support him as a political leader, learned much about the game of politics from him.

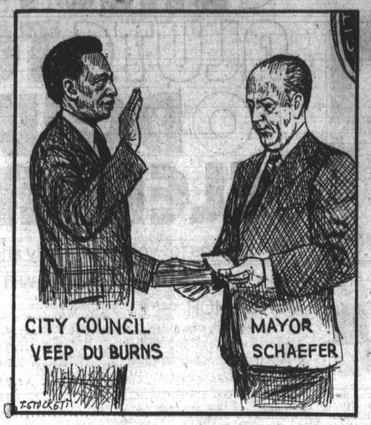
Some of his political tactics, such as the same - name candidate game or the late - night, election-eve trick slates, were u. among the positive things he taught by example.

What Pollack did effectively was to organize and deliver votes to candidates who would remember his constituents once they were in office. He was loyal to those who delivered and he fought former friends at the polls when he decided they were letting him or his constituents down.

And Pollack always fought to win.

His death Tuesday morning at age 78 ended a political career not likely ever to be matched in Baltimore.

And do you swear to be my man?



Now and then — by g. james fleming

Violence like bacon and eggs in U.S.

Looking back on the Hanafi Muslim siege in the District of Columbia, one thing must not be ignored: Violence and terrorism are as American as bacon and eggs. It is not new; it was not invented yesterday or last week.

Violence is also not limited to any one place, or to any one people, or to any one racial, religious or nationality group.

Saying the foregoing, is not to excuse anyone who indulges in crime, or to forget that terrorists wreak their hatred on whomsoever they will, regardless of their victims' race, creed or color.

For instance, in the Washington 3-building attack, the first people shot, and the first person killed, were black. The black Hanafi Muslims did not hold their fire because their first victims would be "brothers."

Violence, terrorism, hate, they know no restraints.

Down the years, tribe has sought to extinguish tribe; Kentucky mountaineers have waged war against other Kentucky mountaineers; frontiersmen have hanged other frontiersmen; labor "goons" and labor groups have murdered other labor "goons" and other labor groups.

Respectable Americans — pillows of the church and society — were the mainstays of the slave trade; the "best people" of America joined in, or condoned, thousands of lynchings; law enforcement officers have brutalized those who had no power to fight back.

We Americans have also resorted to respectable violence, called war, whenever it was to our advantage to do so: War against the Indians, war against Spain in the Caribbean basin, war against Great Britain; "police action" against Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Without being moralistic, what we are saying is that we, as a people, as a nation or as factions, have never been above using violence.

All this is one explanation for the terrorism in the District of Columbia. There is another explanation.

Weaker groups in America have learned that the larger society seldom listens to them unless they disrupt the system. They have learned that they can deliver more and obtain more, faster, than the respectable, "reasonable" leaders who sit around large executive tables.

They have borrowed from the predominant society and learned that guns and bombs speak louder than pleas and petitions—at least in the short run.

Very few blacks believe in violence as a way of life. They know, or remember, too well what violence has meant to them: lynchings and police brutality, for instance, not to mention more subtle terrorism.

Several blacks were very verbal to this column in being condemnatory of the terrorism in Washington. Most said that the terrorists "ought to be dealt with as criminals."

Some were much more harsh in their reaction.

Blacks, the majority of them, are coming to see that muggers, terrorists, kidnapers and killers do not bypass "the brother" when they are on their death-dealing rampages.

Other blacks are asking, "Why, why, why." One friend of this column called to ask: "Why do we have to imitate the worst of what white people do?"

One caller said, "We hope that those Black Muslims know that those who live by the sword will die by the sword."

Whatever the final outcome of the invasion of the B'nai B'rith headquarters, the District Building and the Islamic Center, one thing must not be forgotten: We are historically a violent nation. Violence, to us, is as American as bacon and eggs for breakfast.

Washington report

Tax rebate checks to go for rising cost of fuel

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

A few weeks ago in this column I asked readers to write me and answer the question: "What would you do with your tax rebate?" This question was raised in anticipation of congressional action on President Carter's proposed plan which would allow each taxpayer to receive a rebate check of $50, in addition to $50 extra for each dependent.

The results are in and it appears, at least in Maryland, that any possible tax rebate stands a good chance of being burned up by skyrocketing fuel cost. Usage of the tax rebate to offset this past winter's costs of home heating lead the list of those things respondents said would be done with monies received.

For example, one reader replied: "We won't save it. Depending on the spiraling cost of oil and the weather ahead, we'll pay the heating bill. . ."

Another reader pointed out: "I am on a fixed income, which is not very much. If I would receive a $50 rebate check, I would spend it on. . .fuel oil to try and keep warm."

Still another respondent said: "Under the Carter tax rebate plan of $50, my family would be entitled to $150. My fuel oil monthly payment was raised from $27 to $60, not to speak of gas and electric bill increases. You can see that I would use it to pay bills.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the next most mentioned possible use of the tax rebate, almost equaling that of fuel bills, was for food costs.

Placing third and fourth, respectively, were educational expenses and clothing needs, which certainly go hand in hand. In fact, the quickly approaching graduation season may well stand to be a prime benefactor of rebate checks, should they be approved and received in time. As one lady explained: "I would pay my son's graduation fee and for my daughter's high school ring. I also have two daughters in Morgan State University and I would finish paying for tuition and books. My husband is disabled and I am the only one working now. But, it is so important that we as a black people try to push our children to get the best education that they possibly can."

Only one respondent, a lady on a salary of $8,000 per year with no dependents, indicated that the $50 check would be saved or put aside for a future emergency.

On March 8, the House of Representatives approved a tax rebate plan. The only significant change made by the House is that the rebate would be phased down for those with adjusted gross incomes between $25,000 and $30,000 and completely phased out for all those making in excess of $30,000.

The Senate immediately held hearings on legislation, H. R. 3477, the Tax Reduction and Simplification Act of 1977, and may complete final actions by the time this column goes to print.

It looks, therefore, that all those with incomes under $30,000 stand an excellent chance of getting a tax rebate this year. Whether or not this rebate will serve its purpose of stimulating our economy remains to be seen.

Frankly, I have many doubts. The rebate program could well be as one senator allegedly suspects, "like climbing to the top of the Washington Monument, throwing off bushels of $50 bills, and hoping for a good wind."

Obviously the checks will not be used to get ahead. They will be used by so many people to try and catch up with run-away rises in the cost of living—the cost of surviving.

Somehow we must develop a more comprehensive and constructive method of addressing our economic ills. The positive features of a rebate program notwithstanding, I am still convinced that the answer lies in providing jobs.

My sincere appreciation is extended to all those readers who took the time to share their views with me on the rebate program.

A little about a lot — by madeline m. murphy

Du Burns is far from a Kunta Kinte

The fact that the City Council unanimously elected Councilman Clarence H. (Du) Burns, D.-2nd, vice president of the City Council Monday night, brings full circle the era of the late Tom Smith, who as then Gov. Albert C. Ritchie dubbed him leader of the black community.

For although congratulations would be in order for the first such black dignitary, the fact that in Du's words, even though he is black, and there are 14 whites and 5 blacks in City Council . . . "means the white people saw me the same way as the blacks," one must be warned of Greeks bearing gifts.

For the white members of City Council are still as conservative, as racist as they ever were.

And if it is true as he is quoted saying, that he likes the way Schaefer's got the city moving, we blacks had better look for the kind of pragmatic leadership, if you can call it that, from Du that we've had all along.

For starters:

Fewer blacks as heads of agencies and a near lily white City Hall;

Continued absentee leadership as whites trek daily from the county to be paid city tax money, in city jobs; and

A rogue elephant police department that still brutalizes blacks without checks or balances.

With the recent victory in Richmond of a majority City Council and an elected black mayor, many whites are haunted by what has happened in Gary with Mayor Richard Hatcher, with Kenneth Gibson in Newark, Carl Stokes in Cleveland, Coleman Young in Detroit.

Tom Bradley of Los Angeles is deliberately omitted, since he, as a big city mayor, was not elected by a majority black electorate).

Whites, well aware that blacks represent the majority population in Baltimore City and are nearing a majority of registered voters are now determined to pick our black leader in the person of Du Burns, a black man with the "right" point of view, who would conserve their power over the city of Baltimore.

Thus his election as vice president of City Council of Baltimore City is the white folks' first step in their effort to program the black population to accept Du Burns as the acceptable black mayor of Baltimore, if they reluctantly have to do so.

On the other hand, and more cynically, they can use Du, overblown for the mayoralty, to thwart the ambitions of a black mayoral candidate truly picked by the total black community.

Because in all he says and does, in how he votes, one can rightly say that Du Burns, though elected to a position of some power and influence by black people, has deserted the cause of the people who elected him.

Du probably never believed in the power of black people in the first instance. Kunta Kinte he's not.

To choose as his first major effort the healing of the relationship between Mayor Schaefer and Wally Orlinsky merely compounds his misplaced priorities. It would seem more likely that he should use this position to tighten the loose knit relationship of the minority black members of the City Council so that blacks would benefit more directly from his being there.

Being a conduit for the mayor to the City Council to push the mayor's programs in the council, with a little ingenuity could become a two-way proposition wit.. the right kind of unified black leadership.

And let us not forget the congressional race in the 7th District next year.

Du Burns could possibly be used by the white power structure to try to unseat Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

Nothing rankles the Establishment — the white press included — more than to have an independent-liberal congressman, especially when he keeps turning the other cheek, without the graft, without vindictiveness, to propose legislation that benefits the whole city, as Parren Mitchell does.

There's an old saying: "To the sufficient intellect, nothing is trivial."

Let us be warned that the Establishment never gives up its power willingly, nor without a struggle.

We must, therefore, prepare ourselves wisely and well for the struggle, to break the full circle of controlled, managed black politicians and a self-imposed plantation syndrome.

Milk intolerance

Almost half of the world's peoples, including an estimated 40 per cent to 70 per cent of black Americans, suffer digestive distress of one sort or another if they drink milk or eat cheese, ice cream or any dairy product.

According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology nutritionist Paul Newberne, it is impossible to arrive at an accurate estimate of the number of persons who suffer from lactose intolerance — the failure of the digestive system to produce enough lactase, the enzyme that digests lactose, "milk sugar."

What is known is that those persons suffering from the condition, many of whom live on protein deficient diets, are deprived of one of the best, cheapest, forms of natural protein.

Newberne has just completed a study at MIT that may make it possible, perhaps in the next few months, for persons suffering from lactose intolerance to drink milk. ". . . There is now a reasonable economical supply of lactase and it will be possible to provide it to people who need it, so it can be added to milk, in the near future," said Newberne.

Those particularly affected by lactose intolerance include western Africans, Indonesians, Malaysians, Japanese and Chinese.

It is very rare for a person to see a dairy dish on a Chinese menu which may list more than 100 dishes.

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Fort Worthington Center, 2710 East Hoffman St., here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the Pratt staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

SULA, by Toni Morrison. Sula kept a town alive through tensions she created.

MERIDIAN, by Alice Walker. Story of the political metamorphosis of a black woman.

JAY J. ARMES, INVESTIGATOR, by Jay J. Armes. Private eye tales from the best private eye in the business.

BLACK FOLKTALES, by Julius Lester. A compilation of tales from Africa and black America.

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

5 MARCH 19, 1977

Provident Hospital praised

Dear AFRO:

I am writing about my stay at Provident Hospital.

One Tuesday morning about 5 a.m., I got a pain in the lower part of my stomach and back. It was the darkest day of my life for I had never been sick or in the hospital before.

I want all of Baltimore to know that Provident saved my life. I want them to know that George Russell Jr. has made it possible for Provident to have all the machines they need to save the life of people.

It's one of the prettiest, cleanest hospitals in the city.

If more of our so-called black leaders could show they care, maybe more people would get out and vote.

During my stay I had the chief of staff, Dr. Archie Robinson, Dr. Smith and Dr. Bell to really show that they cared.

The nurses and aides are at your beck and call.

Provident Hospital does care for our welfare. I was there for two pleasurable weeks. Thank God for Provident Hospital.

MRS. INEZ L. CHAPPELL

Filth can destroy city

Dear AFRO:

I'm almost a 100 years old, was born in East Baltimore, to poor parents, and knew cold, heat, hunger and discrimination. But I will not equate poverty with filth!

Cities are inanimate things, brick and mortar, wood and metal, and endure much from the ravages of time.

If left alone, a city would last almost forever — but at the mercy of people who don't care (two ugly 4-letter words!) the city sinks into the ground as if built on quicksand.

We rented and took good care of the premises. Those who did not were evicted. I can still see their few possessions piled at the curb.

The sight was depressing and humiliating — serving as a reminder to respect authority and property.

Baltimore spends about $9 million a year picking up litter dropped by people. Appalling!

People who don't care can and do destroy a city. It starts slowly and spreads quickly.

If unchecked, it plays havoc with buildings and then goes on to contaminate and destroy people.

Let's put the blame where it belongs — on people responsible for filth and destruction.

These people come in all sizes and colors!

B. J. SMALL

Strong plea for more funds for students

By Lois G. Hybl

The Social Studies Curriculum Advisory Committee has voted unanimously to ask the mayor, governor, city and state officials to give highest priority to adequate funding of public education.

At the state level we need a raise in the base for the basic current expense formula — at a minimum that provided in HB 1487 which raises the base from $624 to $732.

At the city level we need the support of the Board of Estimates and City Council in not cutting programs which affect instruction.

As a committee we find that too many of our recommendations are meaningless without the funds to implement them.

For example, we feel that an important part of a child's social studies education is learning the historic and cultural treasures in Baltimore City — the Flag House, Fort McHenry, the Walters Art Gallery, etc.

The Walters is particularly relevant to the seventh grade world cultures course because it provides world history in visual form.

However, only 120 classes from Baltimore City visited the Walters Art Gallery last year while 164 classes came from the surrounding counties and 117 from private and parochial schools.

Some inner city schools can use Title I money for trips; parents in the outer ring schools can pay their children's way — or school funds from pictures or PTA fund-raising activities can help defray expenses for those children whose parents can't afford it.

In between are the many schools which have neither the wealth nor the federal funds to support trips.

We are glad the mayor has supported cultural attractions such as the aquarium, the recent addition to the Walters, etc.

However, we believe that, if Baltimore City children are to grow into adults who support and take their children to our historic and cultural attractions, they should have the experience of visits to these places which enrich their school curriculum.

This is just one area where more money per child would be helpful in educating the disadvantaged while, in fact, Baltimore City is spending less than wealthy counties.

Another area where lack of funds has hurt is in materials and supplies.

Baltimore City's 1976-77 budget for instructional materials and supplies was only $29.02 per student this past year.

This is less than the $34.74 per student spent in 1975-76 when Baltimore County was spending $39.22 per child and Montgomery County $48.91.

If we are to successfully implement Baltimore City's new social studies curriculum, we need to have the money for textbooks, films, filmstrips, projectors and especially the desk maps (to help teach map skills) and materials children can manipulate — relief maps, globes, etc.

Much criticism is directed at numbers of administrators.

Yet certain types are necessary to see that curriculum is implemented at all levels. Teachers especially may need help in their methods of presenting material.

Dr. Samuel Banks, social studies coordinator, has only two assistants to help supervise a social studies curriculum in 239 schools.

The advisory committee last year supported the recommendation of the city's director of instruction and curriculum management, Dr. Foster, to have specialists in the four major subject areas (math, English, science and social studies) in each region.

However, this recommendation has not been implemented because of budgetary constraints.

Class size is another problem which needs to be addressed by the basic current expense formula.

It may be true that well-motivated students from fairly homogeneous backgrounds can do well regardless of class size.

But we have to deal with thousands of students from disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds. They should be getting more individual attention, not less.

First, they need a solid foundation in basic skills so they can read social studies materials.

Second, the social studies curriculum emphasizes discussion, inquiry, research skills and understanding of others from heterogeneous backgrounds.

These activities can be done much more successfully in smaller groups.

It is demoralizing for parents and school officials when the state asks the system to be accountable, yet tells them that budgetary constraints require them to spend less for children who need more.

On behalf of the advisory committee, I plead that we cannot wait another year for the Barnes Commission Report to raise the base for the basic current expense formula.

The losses to children are irremediable.

Delay will cost the state more money in rehabilitation and in social and juvenile services in the long run to try to do over what wasn't done for a child in his early school years.

(Lois G. Hybl is chairperson for the Social Studies Advisory Committee).

Young beat — by larry young

The cold, cold winter of 1977

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

This winter has been called one of the coldest ever. I watched until it hurt, the many news stories about the city of Buffalo, N.Y., which endured a most severe blizzard and critical condition this winter.

Then, right here in our own Big B, many of our neighbors have had it hard this winter, too.

Delegate Roy Dyson asked me to join him in sponsoring H.B. No. 1182, an Act Concerning Emergency Gas and Electric Company Control.

It is for the purpose of prohibiting the gas and electric company from terminating a residential customer's service until March 31, 1977, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the termination would be dangerous to human life; and making this act an emergency measure.

We amended the bill to read — "that if the winter of 1978 is similar to the winter of 1977, then the bill's mandate is effective.

Of the over dozen or so persons who came down to Annapolis to testify, the following statements I think speak well for why the bill should pass:

The Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization, urges the passage of House Bill 1182 and 1877.

During the coldest part of this winter many poor people had their utility bills to go way up. These are people whose incomes are very low; houses are generally poor; whose health is poor and who can't afford to leave town for warmer climates.

Now B. G. and E. wants to shut off service to these very people who have no control of the weather or the fact that their utility bills have gone up so much.

Many of our people have had to make the choice of eating or staying warm for awhile.

If they buy food and not pay the G and E Co., their services are terminated.

Both situations are dangerous to human life and health.

Many people have called our office and said they are unable to send their children to school because they have no clothes to wear. The money had to be sent to B. G. and E.

Older people, children and people living in poor housing have developed serious health problems. When B.G. and E. turned off their services, many people's pipes froze so there was no water for cooking or for washing.

While many of us believe that B. G. and E. has taken unfair advantage of this situation, we want to be able to pay our utility bills.

H.B. 1877 is a step that would allow us to do so. We are not asking for anything to be given to us, but we are asking the Public Service Commission and this body to perform its job by protecting the public interest.

At this time people feel that there is nothing they can do but suffer it B. G. and E. decides to turn off their services for non-payment. One of our clients (61 years of age) says, "Is there anybody out there who cares, because I can't go to another company for my Gas and Electric."

We would like to be able to answer her and the many others by your passage of House Bills, 1182 and 1877.

Another testimony: I receive $200 a month from the Department of Social Services and out of it I have to pay $130.00 for rent, $47.00 for oil, $63.21 for gas and electric and $13.00 for food stamps. My gas and electric is so high because when my oil ran out, I used the oven to keep warm. In October, I bought one - hundred gallons of oil. It only lasted me three weeks. When it was gone, I had to burn my oven to make heat.

When I received my gas and electric bill for November, I was not able to pay all of it because it was too high. So what I did was pay half of it. December, there I was paying the left over gas and electric bill from November combined with December's bill. Therefore, I couldn't buy oil for December. So in January I'm still right back where I was with a high gas and electric bill. February, my two boys needed shoes, so after paying rent and buying food stamps, I had to decide whether I should buy oil or pay my gas and electric bill.

March, I paid my rent of $130.00, bought 100 gallons of oil for $47.00, bought my $13.00 food stamps, this is a total of $190.00. I cannot pay my gas and electric bill with $10.00 so I have to pay it when I can. With the $10.00, that is left, all I can buy are my personal items, such as (soap powder, bleach, sweet soap, toilet paper and what have you.)

What I have shown is that while living on $200.00 a month, it is impossible to pay these high gas & electric bills. It's a constant trade off between oil and gas and electric which are both needed to survive.

I hope that you will think about what I have said and what I have tried to get across to you. Please carefully take into consideration how I have to live off $200.00 a month.

Grim assignment in nation's capital

By Don and Val Hymes

Reporters get accustomed to tragedy and violence.

It is an unavoidable part of the profession. With experience, reporters learn to set their emotions aside, at least until the job is done.

But last week's siege of Washington was different. For many reporters, it was one of the most difficult stories of all, because among the first words that came out of the District Building were those announcing that a colleague had died.

He was young — 24 — the District government was his beat. It was his story to cover, but he didn't get the chance. He was hit by a shotgun blast as he stepped off the elevator on the fifth floor, where the hostages were to be held.

He was to cover a news conference. It should have been held earlier, but it was delayed, ironically, by a funeral. As he and another reporter, Stephen Colter, 26, of the AFRO-AMERICAN, stepped out of the elevator, the invaders were whirling to fire on two security guards. Williams was in the way.

Colter, who was actually closer to the gunman, was miraculously unhurt. The same blast, Colter says, hit one guard and Councilman Marion Barry down the hall. Colter dived for another room, crawled out to check on his friend sprawled lifelessly in the hall, then edged down the hall to safety.

He wrote his story later, but it was an agony. "I got into it and out of it as fast as I could," he said. "It was never so glad to finish a story before in my life."

The death of Maurice Williams haunted everyone else covering the story in the grueling hours that followed. Many did not know him at all. Those who did, grieved, but stayed on the job.

"It's been rough," said WMAL's Ron Canada as he wrote his story on a bench on Pennsylvania Avenue. "He was doing his job, and he didn't have a chance."

Meanwhile, at William's station, WHUR-FM, newsman Benjamin Dudley kept calling the Hanafi Muslims' headquarters to ask, "Why did they kill Maurice Williams?" Each time, the person answering hung up without a word.

"They owe us an answer," Dudley said.

He spoke for many journalists who cannot reconcile their minds to the fact that in this grim story they were covering, a reporter had died senselessly.

Reporters, you see, are not supposed to get involved in the stories they cover. Maurice Williams' involvement was sudden and final. He did not have any choice at all.

He was not shot because he was a reporter, but he would not have been in that spot at that moment if he were not covering his beat.

Reporters, especially those on police beats and war correspondents, accept danger as part of their lives, and train themselves to be alert to danger at all times.

Sometimes it does not help.

It did not help Don Bolles, investigative reporter for the Arizona Republic, who was maimed and murdered by a bomb planted in his car.

And it did not help Baltimore news photographer Harold Spicer, who was parked on a street early one morning in 1971 listening to his police radio when he was blasted through the car window by a handgun. Police still don't know who or why.

When a frustrated taxpayer invaded the Baltimore City Council offices last year, killing one councilman and seriously injuring another, no reporters were hurt. But there was almost a direct parallel to the Williams murder.

Reporter Bob Blatchley raced into the building on a tip, and just missed getting on the elevator with the first contingent of policemen. As soon as they got off that elevator, everybody opened fire. Blatchley ran up the stairs instead, and found a witness for his story before he actually got to the scene.

Is there really a lesson to be learned from these incidents? This reporter ran to the scene knowing that danger was ahead, and he was not hurt. But he could have been caught in the crossfire if he had made that elevator.

When this reporter was watching the District Building with several others last week, police suddenly ran toward us shouting, "Move out! You're in the line of fire!!"

We did not argue. We took cover behind some concrete steps. We knew we could be shot covering this story if we acted recklessly. But nobody ran for home, either.

So many times when there is a hostage situation, it is a reporter who serves as an intermediary, walking into a gunman's fortress armed only with a notebook. Of course they feel fear, but that is part of the job.

Colter still finds it strange to have been part of the violence itself, instead of covering it after the fact. But should the occasion arise again, he'll probably be in the middle of it.

"Anytime something happens, I go to it," he explained, "never away."

WHUR station manager Catherine Liggins immediately started a radiothon to raise funds for a memorial scholarship fund in Williams' name.

"It's not possible to replace him," she said. "We're trying to bring something positive out of a useless death."

It may have been senseless, but not useless.

Any time a reporter dies in the line of duty, it tells the public that his is a proud and courageous profession, willing to face death to guarantee the public's right to know.

Smile

Taxidermist: Business is bad these days. People are eating everything they catch.

NOWADAYS

"HOW MUCH WOULD THE BUREAU CHARGE TO HELP ME TO BE MISSING?"

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

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

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

QUESTION: Are there any statistics available which tell who is most likely to get cancer, a man or a woman? — L.A.

ANSWER: According to the American Cancer Society:

"In 1977, approximately 347,000 American men will develop cancer as will 343,000 American women. There is a far more startling difference, however, when you consider who is more likely to die of cancer.

"Cancer is most curable when detected in an early stage and treated promptly, and women are more likely than men to have regular physical checkups and pay attention to cancer's warning signals.

"Also, there is an enormous lung cancer death toll of American men because of cigarette smoking which is far beyond that for women although in the future greater numbers of women may die of lung cancer because of their increasing cigarette habit."

QUESTION: I have two daughters who attend the William Pinderhughes Elementary School, located in the 1200 block of Fremont Ave.

There are a lot of undesirables who hang around the school and sometimes enter the school unnoticed. It is my fear that some child will be molested.

How do you go about getting guards to patrol these schools? — O.B.

ANSWER: AFRO Line talked to the principal. He said:

"Elementary schools are not assigned security officers. They are assigned basically to junior high and senior high schools. We have access to security in case of breakins or problems, but we have only had one occasion to have them in and that was an unlawful entry over the past weekend.

"The administrative staff and the teachers are very alert. There is always someone either in the halls or classrooms, whereby anyone who comes in and is not a parent is noted readily."

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

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1180

SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-0232

TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-3049

VACANT HOUSE — 396-4176

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4791

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE — 396-1111.

STARS AND YOU

Astrologer Carolyn Gray

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 21) — Search and research financial investments thoroughly before accepting them. Your partner's intentions must be good.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Your work is becoming extremely difficult because of the confusion. However, it will prove quite rewarding.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — The difference between success and failure depends on a very small matter. Keep your intentions to yourself.

Prepare yourself for a not-so-good acceptance.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Trust others the way you want to be trusted. This type of action will encourage others.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — An explanation is needed for your extravagant spending.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Your project should reap excellent results. This may be of a physical or a mental nature.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — A definite improvement in your financial situation is seen. You must however, be on the alert and take advantage of it.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — For fear your future may be dim, it is best you remind your superiors of their recent promises.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Study your community for the things you may best be of help. If you wish you can still remain in the background.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — An argument with a neighbor can spoil your reputation in the community. Make every effort to avoid this.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Your difficulties are many. However, don't exaggerate them. On the other hand, don't ignore them.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Associate with those who have the experience in spending, with a minimal outlay of cash.