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 Jesse H. Murphy Sr., Founder. 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)

Subway contracts fight

It wasn't anything black businessmen here didn't already know, but it should have been helpful for them to be further warned by Georgia State Senator Julian Bond that the power structure isn't going to share profitable opportunities without a fight.

The Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA) is into a running battle with the Mass Transit Administration to force the agency to live up to an affirmative action requirement that 10 per cent of the work on the first leg of the Baltimore subway system be performed by minority firms.

MMCA claims efforts are being made to grant work to firms termed minority but which in reality are not.

In warning the Maryland group how tough it is for blacks to break into the big business arena, Senator Bond told them that the only time whites in Atlanta went against their black mayor, Maynard Jackson, was when he sought to obtain a specific percentage of contracts for minority firms to help reconstruct the city's airport.

While he was secretary of transportation, William Coleman put into effect procedures which enhance the opportunity for minority firms to get a share of mass transit work. Secretary Brock Adams should not be permitted to backtrack.

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell has made it clear he stands with Maryland minority contractors in their fight for a rightful share of the subway work — as do black state legislators.

The state's U.S. senators and other congressmen must be urged to stand up for the minority contractors.

Key state officials, and would-be state officials, must be persuaded to take stands on this economic opportunity issue.

If it becomes necessary to stop the subway work in a legal battle, that too should be done.

Two issues are critical: a fair share of work for minority firms and assurances that the involved contractors actually merit the minority classification.

Politician's nonsense

Councilman Dominic DiPietro, the machine politician from Baltimore's First District seems to have a warped view of people and organizations when it comes to making it easier for citizens to vote.

The councilman's reaction to President Carter's proposal that unregistered citizens be permitted to vote in general elections by appearing at the polls with proper identification, is one of naked fear. Like other machine politicians, he's against the idea.

DiPietro says it would increase vote fraud, although this has not been true in states that now have such a plan. DiPietro offers no proof for his assertion but he probably assumes other citizens are like him: "They are enticing me to become a criminal, they are enticing me to be a thief. Everybody wants to win an election ..."

With the penalties being built into the proposal, the AFRO believes most citizens would be deterred from fraudulent actions. Few would contemplate election-day fraud unless encouraged by some machine politician with theft in his heart.

In Baltimore, where most elections are settled in primaries, the Carter proposal — which covers general elections — would have a minimal effect. Primary elections should be covered by the proposal, also.

What confirms our belief that DiPietro has a warped view of people and organizations in Baltimore is the political machine leader's declaration that probable perpetrators of fraud under the Carter proposal would be neighborhood organizations.

To a politician like DiPietro "everybody who is only with the neighborhood groups is a political monster."

When more voters take advantage of their citizenship rights on election day, there won't be so many DiPietros around to oppose worthy legislation by boasting of their selfish motivations.

Ali has lost it

Maybe Muhammad Ali should bypass Maryland next time he goes out to pluck a few million dollars in the boxing ring.

His spiritless heavyweight title defense Monday night against Spain's Alfredo Evangelista was one of Ali's saddest exhibitions, even worse than his last show at the Capital Centre when the champ was awarded a disputed decision over challenger Jimmy Young.

But to put matters into perspective, 35-year-old Ali, who has been carrying the heavyweight division on his shoulders for years now, isn't the only responsible person for the disastrous boxing display which deserved all the boos the combatants drew Monday night from the estimated 12,000 fans.

Young Evangelista must have decided early that if Ali could collect $2.75 million for the kind of effort he put forth, there was no need for him, a visitor to the U.S., to go all out for the pittance he contracted for — or maybe the kid was doing his lousy best.

Then there was blabber-mouth Howard Cosell, frequently apologizing to the ABC-TV audience for having brought the public such a dull boxing show. But what did ABC-TV expect from old man Ali and a fighter whose No. 1 tribute is that he was "game."

True Muhammad Ali fans have to realize now that The Greatest has had his day. Time has taken its toll.

The question now becomes how long Ali will keep climbing into the ring, or, how long the public will continue to pay to see him do it?

Maybe he won't hang around long enough to "fight" again in Maryland.

Remind Viet vets

Baltimore organizations of all kinds should encourage more Vietnam-era veterans with less than honorable discharges to take advantage of the opportunity to upgrade their discharges.

Across the country an estimated 422,000 veterans are eligible for the upgrading. Veterans with "general" discharges may not bother to apply for the program announced April 5 by President Carter because they already qualify for benefits.

But there are an estimated 173,000 with "undesirable" discharges who would qualify for educational and other benefits were they to have them upgraded.

A considerable number of the veterans reside in Baltimore. Many of them are black. Many of them are poor.

It is possible most of them have not even heard of the program.

Veterans can start the ball rolling by calling a toll-free number in Missouri, 800-325-4040.

Calls to the number have dropped sharply over the past weeks.

Organizations would be performing a worthwhile service by encouraging eligible Vietnam-era vets to take advantage of this chance to help themselves.

Right on red

Acting Gov. Blair Lee's signature this week put Maryland among the growing number of states which permit right turns on red lights after a motorist has come to a stop and checked the right-of-way.

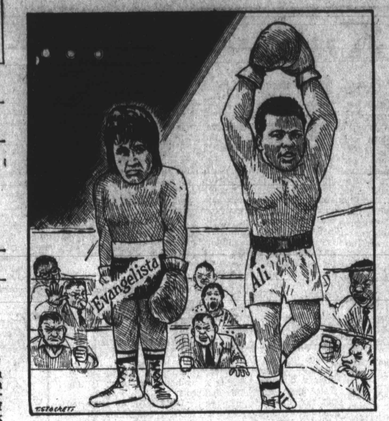
Maryland's law becomes effective July 1, 1978. Thirty-six states already permit such turns.

The turns will be permitted unless signs prohibit them.

Such turns will save time, gasoline and frustrations.

One day all 50 states and the District of Columbia will be in step on this traffic-moving improvement.

Hoorah, I got past another one



Now and then _____ by g. james fleming

Down memory lane with the AFRO

There is bound to be much repetition in this special anniversary issue of the AFRO-AMERICAN, celebrating its 85th year of being on the fighting front for right and justice and for the upward mobility of black Americans.

This piece is the writer's memories of the AFRO and the AFRO's people.

First of all, I have been a reader of the AFRO for over 57 years. I have known it as a mostly local, once-a-week, one-edition weekly, and I have seen it grow into a national publication with 13 editions in nine circulation areas, with one "national" edition and two editions weekly in Washington and in its home city.

Long before I became a regular columnist for the AFRO, I had been one of it partime correspondent, from New York City (a "stringer"). The most important story I covered was the Harlem riots of 1935, when stores were burned out all along 125th Street and up and down Seventh Avenue.

It was a coverage by telegraph and telephone, followed by mail, and it was grand to work for a paper which never once said, "Be careful about all those telegrams and long distance calls" (the costs).

I remember another time, when I was not working for the AFRO, but when I read of the installation of Martin D. Jenkins as president of Morgan State College. Indeed, the AFRO carried his inauguration address in toto. I read it all and wondered, "What kind of a man is he that would make a speech like that in Maryland, below the Mason and Dixon Line?"

I wondered more: "What kind of a state is Maryland in reality, that it permitted a black, on the state payroll, to make such a speech and broadcast it, by radio, throughout the state?"

I was questioning about this "other side" of the state because I had known of one lynching in Maryland, and I had first stopped in Baltimore, as a youngster, when I could not eat, unsegregated, in the then plush Pennsylvania Station dining room.

I have always been grateful to the AFRO for carrying the Jenkins' speech in full.

Not too long after I came to Morgan, a testimonial dinner was held on the campus by a citywide committee, in honor of the publisher of the AFRO, Dr. Carl Murphy, one of the leading spirits in making Morgan a state institution and long one of its most dedicated builders.

I had an opportunity to experience how powerful the AFRO was, when somehow, a call was directed to me from a high state official. He said that he and some other state officials had not received invitations to the dinner and that he would like to reserve two tables.

It did not take me long to figure out that these white officials would not be volunteering to subscribe to two tables if they did not believe that the AFRO had clout, that it had a substantial followership, and that it was listened to.

It would take another column, nay, a book, to write about "Mr. Carl" (He could just as easily be called "Mr. AFRO"). In our years as neighbor and friend, we spent many hours speaking of the AFRO's fight to abolish Jim Crow on railways in Maryland, of its fights to win equal pay for black teachers of the state and to abolish discrimination by buses and taxis in Baltimore.

I made him talk, also, of his historic and happy alliance with Dr. Lillie Jackson and his part in reviving the Baltimore branch of the NAACP; and of his years as husband and partner of his wife, Vashti Turley Murphy, and father of their five children.

I knew "Mr. Carl", too, as a member of the board of trustees of Morgan State College, as chairman of its building committee, and, climactically, as chairman of the entire board.

He loved Morgan vigorously, and he used the AFRO and its influence to bring the college (university) where it is today. But, of all his loves, next to "Miss Vashti," came the AFRO. In fact, he would have wanted to put both of them in the first place.

A little about a lot _____ by madeline w. murphy

Doing it cold turkey after 35 years

For the last two years, my doctor has put me on a strict diet and suggested very strongly that I give up smoking. Only in the last few months have I taken weight loss seriously enough to lose at least 10 pounds that I intend to keep off.

In the face of all this, everyone says once you stop smoking you automatically gain weight, what with that hand to mouth fixation that makes smokers real addicts.

So I don't know why I did it, except maybe for that tightness in my chest, that dark brown taste in my mouth every morning, cracked & chapped lips, smoke reddened eyes, burns on my dresses, or nasal congestion that just got me down, that I couldn't take any more!

Also with the latest bad news on filtered and non-filtered cigarettes, the former giving the smoker heart trouble, the latter, cancer, who really needed that kind of devil or witch?

So I did it, I quit smoking, cold turkey!

To ease my withdrawal, woe to my dentist, I alone have pushed Wrigley's stock up two points, stuffing Freedent, Doublemint, Spearmint, Freshen-up into my mouth. Woe to my poor husband, too, bubble popping has become my latest irritating pastime.

This, as a writer, has become the acid test. All along, I have been victimized by nightmares and sweating fears that cigarettes fueled my brain and activated my hands when I stared for hours at a blank sheet of paper.

What if I became permanently stalled? Couldn't write ever again? Maybe I ought to lose weight first, then give up smoking.

What pretext now could make me retreat from a badly phrased sentence, boredom with the topic, just plain laziness or procrastination? In weak moments any excuse would do. But, no, no turning back now. Either write or get off the chair!

But what about the phone? How many times did I light up when I used it or it rang? Or frantically hunted for my cigarettes before I picked up the receiver? Or stretched the cord to its breaking point to get another pack? (Rose Mary Woods, contortion's were duck soup compared to mine!)

Either using the phone or answering it, some mechanism always triggered a neon sign in my head, "Light Up!"

Would I ever be able to use the phone again?

Moreover, anyone who has ever smoked habitually has always relished that smoke at breakfast with that first cup of coffee—or after lunch or dinner—the piggyback fix. Would I ever finish a meal, or would I just go on stuffing myself to avoid the final test?

The answer was to switch to tea, strong and black at first. In the final outcome this became a double bonus. Didn't coffee and smoking speed up the aging process?

On a scale from one to ten I probably rate seven since I have snitched maybe one or two cigarettes in an evening or puffed surreptitiously on a pipe occasionally (yeah).

But what spurs me on is pride in my own willpower and how good I feel.

Without smoke in my eyes and face my sense of smell and taste have heightened. Dry skin on my face is disappearing. I sleep better. Find myself less edgy. And am able surprisingly to write more. With slight discomfort, I'm even able to talk on the phone!

So far, as I expected, I'm gaining weight, but with a little effort to avoid all things in the market that are classed as snack food, by getting out, exercising, working in the garden, eating lots of fruit and raw vegetables, keeping old Wrigley's near by, rearranging and reforming my eating habits, maybe I won't gain weight much longer either.

In the interim, some of my relatives are going to be getting some dynamite Christmas presents. I'm turning out needlepoint and embroidery like I'm on an assembly line!

The race they say, is not won by the swift, but to him-her who endures the longest. Boy do I need that endurance!

Because this time, after so many other false starts, I must, I can, win. But after 35 years, believe me, it ain't easy!

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).

Washington report

Schaefer, Johns Hopkins: chameleons on health

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

In a recent article in the Baltimore Sun it was reported that the mayor of Charm City served as a key activist in a fund raising drive on behalf of the Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital. The hospital is trying to raise two million dollars from community donations for "new equipment and services."

Dr. John Littlefield, pediatrician-in-chief of the Johns Hopkins Children's Center said that one million will go for new equipment, another million would be needed to relocate the obstetrics unit next to the intensive care unit so that physicians in both units will exchange information and coordinate services.

The article made it clear that the pediatric unit of the hospital was not in financial stress, but it just wanted to see some desired changes.

It is interesting that the chief elected official of Baltimore is permitting this private institution to use him in this fashion. Including the medical school and the hospital, that particular institution received over $45 million in federal grants and assistance during the 1976 fiscal year. Most of the grants were for medical research. Certainly, the institution is receiving one of the largest chunks of federal money going to a private institution in Maryland.

I think that the people of Baltimore need to ask the mayor why he agreed to come to the rescue of this particular hospital. Substantial endowments, private contributions along with federal and state grants paid from our tax dollars have kept the internationally reputed Johns Hopkins University Hospital in the black for quite a while (financially speaking).

While the promotion of private contributions for the Children's Center is a very appealing gesture, the mayor would do better to take a closer look at the other hospitals in the inner-city.

Provident Hospital, for example, could well use the endorsement of a fund raising campaign initiated by the mayor.

But even before the mayor reaches out for the goodwill of other hospitals, he would do better to look in his own back yard. The Baltimore City Department of Health has a very poor record in hiring blacks in decision-making positions.

Why not go out and promote equal employment opportunity and equal health care for the citizens of Baltimore?

Better yet, why not mandate that before the end of this year, the Health Department will double its employment of blacks in every area of the department?

The mayor needs to take a closer look at the Health Systems Plan and Annual Implementation Plan of the Central Maryland Health Systems Agency (CMHSA).

This voluntary, non-profit organization is charged with planning a means of "achieving equal access to quality health care at a reasonable cost" for the citizens in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties and Baltimore City.

The CMHSA reported in its Annual Health System Plan that black income in the Baltimore metropolitan area declined by 2.1 per cent between 1950 and 1974, primarily due to inflation.

During the last five years overall health care costs have risen by 16.8 per cent annually. If we juxtapose these figures, the bottom line is that black people are paying more for health care services on less income than the average white taxpayer.

What makes this situation even worse is that in the last 15 years, the black male participation in the metropolitan working force has dropped by 10 per cent. Mayor Schaefer, Charm City has lost more than Tall Ships.

Furthermore, the public must scrutinize the policies and attitudes of Johns Hopkins Hospital. Recently, the Maryland Human Relations Commission had to issue a subpoena in order to make the hospital come up with documents revealing its hiring practices and record of patient care.

This was done because the Community Health Council and Local Union 1199E had filed a complaint with the commission that Johns Hopkins discriminates against minorities applying for jobs and that it also discriminates (based on race) in patient care and treatment.

Although these allegations have not been proven, the hospital, for whatever reason has not honored the commission's subpoena. The hospital has not provided them with documents and information which would substantiate or disprove the accusations.

In fact, the Maryland Human Relations Commission has taken this issue to the Baltimore City Circuit Court. The court is expected to hold a hearing on the release of the documents sometime in June.

As a matter of routine, members of Congress are asked to endorse the applications of hospitals like Hopkins which are seeking funds from the federal government. Johns Hopkins is probably the most active hospital in the State of Maryland who seeks this kind of support from the Maryland Congressional Delegation. In light of its policies concerning blacks, a very urgent re-evaluation of this Congressional service is necessary.

In addition, informed sources have indicated that community groups have already asked Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph Califano to reconsider the granting of federal monies to the hospital unless it complies with affirmative action requirements.

Finally, on many levels black Baltimoreans and black Marylanders, have substantial reasons to dispute the methods and quality of health care delivery in our city and state. The CMHSA said in its Health System Plan that West Baltimore City, East Baltimore City and the central core of Baltimore City are intense medically underserved areas.

"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

Inmate agrees with Mitchell

Dear AFRO:

I am an inmate of the Maryland Correctional Training Center in Hagerstown, Md.

In his recent AFRO article, Congressman Parren Mitchell stated, "The state of Maryland must adopt a bold new policy toward the black citizen, a policy of human development as opposed to the present policy of human development."

He went on to list several alternatives to incarceration and other very good points to be included in a new policy. The article contained numerous facts, the first and foremost being the title itself, "Caging Young Blacks".

Congressman Mitchell cannot bring about this new policy alone, the members of the community must give him and all like him, their full support. All must become involved. I am speaking to let those concerned know that we on the inside want to help also. So as we reach out to give our share please do not close your ears and hearts to us. We do have something to offer to better the community.

When your automobile breaks down you call the auto mechanic, when you have electronic failures you call in the electrician, and in most situations we use the same logic.

Why not be just as practical in the area of crime prevention? Who knows more about crime than he who commits it? Lend an ear to the offender or ex-offender who is seriously concerned about crime prevention and building better communities.

At the present time I am working with a fellow inmate, Hugo Hamilton, in an attempt to draft a proposal for a city wide program centered around crime prevention. We feel that if this area is effectively dealt with, there will be less need for corrections.

LARRY A. ROBBIN
Box 3333
Hagerstown, Md. 21740

Stop Nixon's tears

Dear AFRO:

What more can be done for Richard Nixon to stop his crying? Frosting (over $600,000 for the stupid interviews) on the cake of his income as ex-President, which isn't exactly peanuts, doesn't seem to satisfy him. If his greed demands more money, let him go to work.

There's just no end to the lucrative opportunities available to him. Good references won't be a problem — there are many who feel he was wronged and will gladly vouch for him.

B. J. SMALL

Impotent prison solutions

Dear AFRO:

The Prisoner Assistance Project, a group of attorneys, law students and paralegals dedicated to the reform of the penal and criminal justice system, is outraged at the passage of the governor's bill, which creates an unnecessary prison on the site of the old Continental Can factory.

This measure represents another political response and impotent attempt to deal with a problem attacking the foundation of our society, without any thought to solving it or examining viable alternatives.

At best, a few speculators in executive politics may receive a windfall from the sale of the property at issue.

It must be understood that the alleged overcrowding has more to do with poor administration of existing facilities than the need for new ones.

Four dormitories at the Maryland Correctional Institution, Hagerstown, having a combined capacity of 360 beds, are not being used to house prisoners.

Approximately 160 beds could be provided if the plush cottages at Hagerstown were vacated by the correctional personnel now living there. At the Maryland Correctional Camp Center, in two of its annexes are 180 vacant beds. In addition, the other camps or minimum security facilities are under-populated and one available camp facility is totally closed for no apparent reason.

Even by conservative estimates, almost the entire 890 people to be incarcerated in the Continental Can prison could be housed in existing facilities without the appropriation of $26 million in state funds.

Moreover, the Special Joint Committee on Corrections, as far back as 1974, in its report to the Legislative Council of Maryland, recommended against new construction and advocated the use of existing facilities while increasing the release rate of those already incarcerated.

Yet the governor's response completely ignores the committee's recommendations and creates another warehouse for confining the black and the poor. Documented nationwide patterns indicate that new prisons never achieve their purported objectives of reducing prison population. There is little reason to expect anything different here.

As the report of the Special Joint Committee on Corrections indicates, the effective use of probation, parole and other early release programs can provide a relatively low-cost, safe and viable rehabilitative alternative when compared to the pitfalls of incarceration.

However, based on unofficial sources, our parole system failed to release even one inmate during 1976 from the nearly 1,000 that populate the Maryland Penitentiary.

In a state with already the third highest incarceration rate in the country and where as much as 40 per cent of the prison population could be released under safeguards that would result in no appreciable harm to society, the governor used fear tactics to authorize his wasteful project.

Mr. Mandel states that 3,000 criminals will be released by the courts if the prison is not built. Since the Can Factory bed capacity would be 890 by the governor's own count, over 2,000 inmates will have to be released because of prison and jail crowding, even if the new facility is opened.

He suggests no alternatives for these 2,000 people and he fails to realize that the courts rarely order the outright release of inmates or the closing of prisons. If they do order prison population reductions, it is never done abruptly, even in the most egregious of cases.

The $26 million should be allocated to alleviate the cause of incarceration by channeling the money into programs providing more jobs, education and housing and in reforming the criminal justice system. A system that blacks and other minorities know to be more criminal than just.

The bankruptcy of the governor's plan reflects a lack of foresight and serves to further an already racist and degrading economic and social system. If he believes that this fiat of an executive legislative process represents the will of the people, then he is mistaken. We respectfully dissent.

The Prisoner Assistance Project

Thanks from YMCA

Dear AFRO:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of the Afro-American for your fine efforts to print stories and announcements about the North Baltimore Branch YMCA.

Through your efforts your readers have been made aware of the many programs and services the YMCA has to offer. Thank you again.

YVONNE J. BUTLER
Executive Director

Smile

The hypnotist, demonstrating his power, said, "When I clap my hands you will forget everything."

A man in the audience yelled, "No, no not yet, he owes me $20.

Grandson: When you are speeding along like this, aren't you glad you are alive?

Grandmother: "Glad is only half of it. I am amazed!"

Young beat _____ by larry young

Magnificent Mother Bethel

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

The late great black entertainer, the legendary Moms Mabley, has as part of her repertoire this statement on religion.

She said that she had come into a few dollars and had wanted to have it divided up into some smaller change. So she went into a big downtown bank in New York City and waited in line for her turn at the teller's window.

When she got to the teller's window, she placed a $500 bill on the ledge and asked if the teller could break it down. The teller asked her, "What denomination?" Moms said quickly and proudly, "Baptist."

Of course, the teller really asked her in what denominations . . . but you get the gist of the story. Moms was simply always willing and ready to proclaim her Baptist faith.

It seems that people are sometimes given recognition based on what denomination they are, but really it is not all that important.

I was as a young lad baptized as a Baptist by the Reverend Tapscott, former pastor, Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Then, leaving the neighborhood, I was off to the Metropolitan Methodist Church. Here, I learned to love a man who many call the Holy Father, the Reverend Frank L. Williams. After his assignment to a Washington, D.C. church, I was a lost lamb, and then I found refuge in my present church home, New Shiloh Baptist Church, pastored by the Reverend Dr. Harold A. Carter.

And, you know, I could never get hung up on the denominations, but only with the direction a church would go if it were truly dedicated to live with Christ.

The Reverend Topscott, the Reverend Williams, the Reverend Dr. Carter, all great men, all great preachers, God had chosen many folk to speak in his behalf. I heard this past Friday yet another giant of the ministry, who was the keynote speaker at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church's 192nd anniversary.

The country preacher, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, founder, Operation PUSH. Not since the prayer breakfast sponsored by New Shiloh Baptist Church could the Baltimore Hilton have had such a religious experience.

It was to be an anniversary banquet, but for me it was simply church. Mother Bethel, that evening—I came to love her for all that she had represented in the yesterday, today and tomorrow.

It was written, "It is of no avail to talk of the church in general, the church in the abstract, unless the particular local church which the people attend can become a center of light and leading, of inspiration and guidance." Mother Bethel, this is you.

This wholesome evening was put together by one of the saints of Bethel, Mrs. Marie P. Cooke, chairperson, 192nd Anniversary Banquet Committee. The occasion at the affair was given by the Reverend Harrison J. Bryant. As he talked, I thought of something that Bruce Barton said: "Business checks up on itself frequently to be sure that it still is heading for its original goals. Is there not need for a similar check-up on the part of a church?" Oh, the Holy Ghost was there. An earthly angel sang, Ms. Carlene Dixon and the Imani Messengers.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile.

Oh, the near 1,000 or more people who were there were given strong doses of the history of Mother Bethel by the Honorable Parren J. Mitchell, who presided.

I could not possibly repeat, nor will I try, the electrifying words of Jesse Jackson, but to quote Robert Ingersoll, "I belong to the great church which held the world in its star-lit aisles, that claims the great and good of every race and clime, that finds with joy the grain of gold in every creed, and floods with light and love the germs of good in every soul."

And, as the program was 90 per cent over, a young man, tall, strong and articulate, the Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant, pastor, Bethel AME Church, stood before those of us in the audience, and a mysterious wave of love came forth as he said, "Bethel, Bethel, Bethel, Ole Mother Bethel, I am proud of you tonight." And for one full evening I wanted to clamor to the breast of Mother Bethel.

Gipsy Smith said, "On the boat coming from America, a man said to me, 'My church is the church.' I replied, 'Go fill your bathtub with salt water and say, "This is the ocean." ' " Regardless of your denomination, we can all be proud of the legacy Mother Bethel holds for us.

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 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203.)

Maurice Wayne Dorsey was recently honored by the Outstanding Young Men of America. This award certificate was presented to him in recognition of his outstanding personal and professional achievement.

He is a 1965 graduate of Bel Air Senior High; holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, class of 1970; Masters of liberal arts from Johns Hopkins University, 1975, and master's of education from Loyola, 1976.

At present Mr. Dorsey is an area extension agent at the University of the District of Columbia, Van Ness. Formerly he taught home economics in the Baltimore City public schools and was a part-time assistant professor of home economics at Morgan State University.

Following his graduation from the University of Maryland where he majored in housing and interior design, he was employed by several local firms as interior design salesman, draftsman and manager.

Young Mr. Dorsey is a member of the American Home Economics Association, American Vocational Association, Maryland Home Economics Teacher Association, University of Maryland Alumni Council and served as president of the College of Human Ecology Alumni Board of Directors.

Numerous speaking engagements, newspapers and magazines recognitions, public broadcastings, publications, workshop committee activities and departmental travels were certain criteria which enabled him to be selected for this prestigious award.

MAURICE W. DORSEY

Simple crime prevention tips

(Reprinted from "How To Make Crime More Trouble Than It's Worth," a joint program of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services).

Make sure your windows are secure. If an intruder can't get in your doors, windows are the next best bet. Those on the first floor and on the ground level are most vulnerable, but don't overlook those on the second floor. A determined housebreaker will do some climbing if he has to.

The objective is to prevent a burglar from prying a window open. He wants to avoid breaking glass because he doesn't want to attract attention. Screens and storm windows help provide a first line of defense.

Casement windows operate by means of a crank usually located at the bottom. A latch secures the window to a center post. These windows can be secured by removing the crank handle and installing a locking device.

Louvered windows consist of numerous small slatted panels which can be removed by a housebreaker without too much difficulty. Fortunately, quite a number have to be taken out to facilitate entry. Generally they are bad security risks. However, make sure their locking devices are in working order.

Sliding windows can be secured with a deadlock that is key operated from the outside, a "Charley Bar" to brace the window closed, or a metal rod can be placed in the bottom track.

Double hung windows operate upward and downward and are probably the most common type of window found in residences. They usually have a simple sash latch which can be easily jimmied.

You can purchase key operated sash locks that offer excellent protection for double hung windows.

You can also secure windows by permanently screwing shut those which are not used. Always leave one window in each bedroom operable to enable escape in case of fire.

NOWADAYS

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.

Poet's corner

Don't call yourself nigger

Don't call yourself nigger,
Don't put yourself down,
A nigger is a lowly person,
One that's not wanted around.
Don't call yourself nigger
When you're at play
Your name you degrade
By talking that way.
Don't call yourself nigger
Even for fun,
You're one of the main races
Under God's sun.
Don't call yourself nigger
Be proud of who you are today,
Look onward to tomorrow
And in yesterday let the nigger stay.
Don't call youself nigger,
Black is beautiful
But room for improvement make way.
Go forever forward and let the name nigger go astray.
The Indian
Did not call himself savage,
He was proud and stood tall,
The Chinese,
Their dynasty do not degrade.
And names of themselves do not call,
The Caucasian
Does not use honky, even in jest,
The race build up, lest it fall,
So let nigger be a word
Not used for fun or real,
Don't waste yourself or your kin
and the wounds of yesterday try to heal.

MARIE HARRIS

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: I recall reading a while back that there will soon be an increase in the Maryland sales tax. Can you tell me when the increase will be and how much?

ANSWER: The increase in sales tax will become effective June 1, 1977. Following are the rates:

On each sale where the price is 20 cents, the tax is 1 cent; 21-40 cents, 2 cents; 41 cents-60 cents, 3 cents; 61 cents-80 cents, 4 cents; 81 cents-$1.00, 5 cents.

On each sale where the price exceed $1, the tax is five cents on an even dollar, plus 1 cent for each 20 cents or fraction thereof. Ex., $1.01-$1.02, 6 cents tax; $1.21-$1.40, 7 cents tax.

Meals are taxable on sales beginning at $1.00 on meals consumed on the premises.

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — Things are much better than you realize. Actions are spur-of-the-moment reactions to frustrations. Don't gamble — the odds are against you.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — A complicated story needs your input. It may begin on a sour note but the ending will be good.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Be careful how you handle property belonging to yourself and others. Damages to either could cause much regret.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Don't place yourself in the forefront of projects. Sit back, relax and let others do their share of the job.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Frustrations will get the best of you if you don't.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Do not underestimate your vulnerability. Even the most minor problems require careful thought.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Make good use of your spare time by putting yourself to work. Build up your reputation by lending a helping hand.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Those who are not always on time have more of an advantage than you realize. Leave well enough alone or be ready to suffer the consequences.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Hard work does not necessarily bring success. Enjoy life or you'll often get left behind if you spend too much time working.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Obligations that crop up aren't readily negotiable. Make no new financial agreements. Leave money intact.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Stick to the plans you have outlined for yourself or suffer the regrets of following another's. Make old and new contacts in order to bring personal happiness.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Today will be one of coping with previously unsuspected opinions from others, harsh prejudices. Deal with the situations at hand.