I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:
"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—1929-1968

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO - AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc;

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven.
CARL MURPHY (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher; (1922-1967)

Ali and local education

"The Greatest," Muhammad Ali is in town this weekend to help raise funds so that the Clara Muhummad Elementary-Secondary School, 514 Wilson St., may open its doors again.

We encourage everyone to support the Champ in this endeavor.

Our reasons are several-fold: first, this school has well served the Baltimore Muslim community; secondly, its unique approach to the education of our children commends it as a useful alternative for our evaluation; third, any worthwhile project that cuts across ideological and other lines and that involves all kinds of brothers and sisters is the kind of unifying force that can only help all of us.

It has been said often by many that no matter what else you may believe or feel about the Muslims, now the World Community of Islam (in the West-WCOITW) there can be only respect for their discipline, enterprise and spiritual integrity.

The Muhummad school, named for the widow of the first Muslim Messenger, Elijah, has been an important link in the national network of WCOIW schools.

It is important that it resume operation not only because of needs of WCOIW children and their parents but also of the wider community.

That our public school system is on trial, that the very premise upon which the training of American children, black and others, is being called into account by thoughtful citizens as being ineffective, is no secret.

It is hardly news that educational and familial permissiveness is producing classrooms full of disruptive, undisciplined often menacing children. Veteran teachers are resigning before the retirement limit to get out of a situation they sense is deteriorating.

Such schools as the Clara Muhummad institution here, that emphasize learning, sense of family, respect, black self-worth, must continue.

It is just possible that they hold many of the answers for the correct education of all black and other children—education that ensures they emerge as probably personalities rather than negative persons who end as burdens to all of us.

The Friends of the World Community of Islam, comprised of non-Muslims are to be commended for rallying to the Muhammad school cause. Muhammad Ali is to be cited for lending the magnet of his superstardom to this campaign.

Let us all get behind this issue. It is larger than a sectarian school's survival, it concerns our mutually inclusive survival.

No media running dogs

As the second annual conference of the National Association of Black Journalists unwinds here this weekend, Baltimoreans have been served up a news offering by daily media to ponder with their breakfast orange juice.

The morning paper has again focused its eye on Morgan State University president Dr. Andrew Billingsley. From the tone of the report...

"$15,000
Billingsley
land bared
Morgan chief got foundation money for personal use"

...you would think the ghost of Watergate was rising from the bowels of the Hillen Rd. campus.

This news on the heels of the report of a few days ago in the afternoon dailies that the MSU president had ceremoniously fired one of his top aides is not exactly the kind of favorable notice a public official needs.

Dr. Billingsley, who at this moment is traveling in the Far East, has not been available to explain the allegations or wipe away the innuendos.

The hurried reader would assume from such coverage that the Morgan president had done something wrong.

We are so used to white media's attacks on black leadership as we are sure AFRO readers are also used to this that often we just editorially shrug and say "the assassins are at it again."

Discrediting black leadership by majority media under the guise of responsible journalism is accelerating at a pace parallel with the developing control of urban institutions by blacks.

We all see that whatever some folks cannot continue to control they would destroy.

But what gives us pause is that it is increasingly daily media's wont to use black journalists as running dogs yapping at the heels of black leadership.

We have the recent example of Joseph Yeldell in neighboring Washington, D.C., for years the second most powerful man in black Walter Washington's mayoral administration. When the daily media took out after the Mayor using Yeldell as an all too convenient whipping boy, the Washington Post assigned a beautiful young sister to the story.

There is a rationale among some daily media types that as long as they have a black writer covering black leadership objectivity is somehow strengthened. It is our sense that if anything objectivity is diminished.

All of which brings us back to the black journalists' conference now underway.

We would hope the brothers and sisters assembled would give more than passing thought to something that is on the minds of many thoughtful communicators, we included, and that is what are the boundaries for blacks working in white media, or black media for that matter.

Just when is it one ceases to be a professional journalist respectful and proud of his or her ethnicity and crosses that line to become simply a hired gun ready at the drop of an assignment editor's pencil to shoot his fellows.

Dr. Billingsley will probably make almost as many administrative errors as his white counterparts in seats of higher learning but on the slim evidence we have seen presented to date he seems more the target of an ego sanctioned by the daily press lords than anything else.

Tell it, Vernon!

With his scathing attack on President Carter for doing little or nothing for the poor and blacks, Vernon Jordan, National Urban League Director, becomes the front-runner in the mythical race to be biggest national black leader of them all.

Vernon's timing was excellent. He stepped up to the batter's plate and knocked one over the stands while Ben Hooks, incoming NAACP director, was warming up on the sidelines.

The Urban League's Jordan, usually mild, sometimes positively bland, was a fire-eater when he gave Carter hell at the Urban League banquet on the weekend in Washington.

Some wonder if Jordan has gone to far, if his blast at the President will boomerang later on.

We think not. Jordan knows what he is doing. After he boomed one high and clear the President showed two days later at the same Urban League meeting to tell all he had done for us and all he intends to do.

If we were cynical we might say that Jordan and The White House set us all up rather cutely.

No matter, when Jordan protested that the President has forgotten the folks who put him in office he was right on target. It needed to be said and the President needed to know that answers were expected of him before much longer.

Now we anxiously await Ben Hooks' turn at bat. What does he tell the nation about the Administration, about the NAACP's new thrusts.

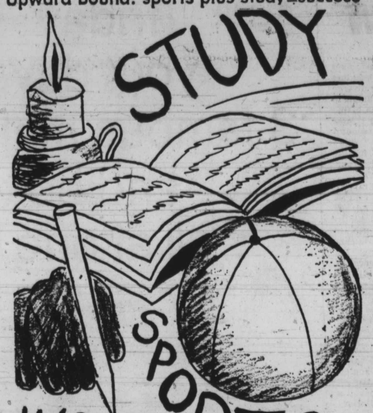
We think it is great that important articulators of black hopes and aspirations have decided the Carter honeymoon is over.

Too many of our people are in terrible circumstances.

That Vernon Jordan has come front and center to bring this reality to the President sets well with us.

Get it moving, Jimmy! We cannot eat campaign promises.

Upward Bound: sports plus study=success



Washington report

Housing subsidies for the poor in trouble

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

This week's article was written by Thomas K. Goines, assistant staff director, Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee. Mr. Goines is a graduate of Morgan State College and holds an M.B.A. in Finance from Atlanta University, Graduate School of Business.

After eight years of the Nixon and Ford Administrations during which the black community was virtually economically ravaged, many black and poor Americans rejoiced last November over the election of Jimmy Carter as President of the United States.

The jubilation was understandable, for the black vote proved to be the deciding factor in Jimmy Carter's victory, which hopefully signaled the beginning of a new order in our quest for economic parity.

However, once the euphoria subsided, cooler moments of reflection and analysis returned, and the mood of the black community can now, perhaps, best be described as that of "cautious optimism." In our community, there is a presence of disquieting anxiety and suspicion. This is particularly evident when thoughts turn to survival and support programs for our poor and disadvantaged.

Many of us feared last fall (and still fear) that our survival and support programs would be the initial targets of the administration's support for zero-based budgeting, cutting federal spending and achieving a balanced budget. It now appears our fears were not unwarranted.

In a recent in-house memorandum which was leaked to the press, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has outlined a proposal that would virtually eliminate the entire housing subsidy program currently being administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The proposal is part of the Carter Administration's effort to reform totally the present welfare system without increasing present costs.

The OMB proposal takes on added importance when viewed against the backdrop of the nation's broken promises to provide adequate housing for its citizens. In the Housing Act of 1949, the Federal Government promised "a decent house and a suitable living environment for every American Family." Now nearly 30 years later, horror stories are still being told about the 5.4 million substandard housing units in which many poor and black Americans are forced to live.

Again, in 1968, Congress passed and the President signed into law what is commonly considered a landmark housing bill. This act established national housing goals — an unprecedented provision. Specifically, the bill called for the construction and rehabilitation of a total of 26 million housing units by 1978. Of the total number units, 6 million were to be designated as low and moderate income units.

As of June 1977, only 1.7 million units of HUD subsidized housing have been started since July 1968. Nonetheless, OMB apparently would now choose to scuttle the housing subsidy program.

If accepted by President Carter, the OMB proposal would do the following:

1. Divert $4.9 billion from the HUD Housing Subsidy Program to the new welfare system.
2. Reduce drastically HUD's Fiscal Year 1978 subsidized housing unit commitments from 400,000 to 50,000.
3. Provide cash grants to all who qualify under welfare reform.
4. Reduce significantly the average housing subsidy received by the current recipient.

In my view the impact of OMB's proposal is clear: absolute devastation to the housing program for poor and black people.

First, OMB's misguided brainstorm will be economically devastating to poor people. Economically, the basic law of supply and demand is being ignored. It is universally agreed that there is an inadequate supply of housing for low-income and poor families. The demand for such housing has never been greater. People are clamoring for a decent place to live. But supply has not responded. The result: skyrocketing rents. Poor folk are simply priced out of decent housing.

Second, the economic and financial reality of the low-income housing market is that banks, builders and private owners of low-income units will not finance and build low-income housing without assurance that they will receive a return on their investment.

At today's prices and costs, that assurance must come from the government in the form of a subsidy. Without such assurance our problem of supply would be even more acute than it now is. OMB's proposal would eliminate the assurance and worsen the situation.

Third, OMB suggests providing cash grants to recipients that would hopefully be used as a housing allowance. OMB acknowledges that the average cash payout would be smaller than per current recipient, but nevertheless, feels that poor people will be able to obtain quality housing during these inflationary times.

Moreover, OMB would force poor and low-income people into the general housing market to compete with those middle-income families who also find it financially difficult to obtain and maintain good housing.

Fourth, no consideration is given to the uniqueness of the subsidized housing market. The poor are confined to his housing market in their search for decent housing. They do not have the access to a variety of price structures nor to a variety of places to live. They are blocked due to financial straits and they are blocked due to cultural and social prejudices.

Finally, the proposed OMB alternative will severely impair HUD's housing and community development programs. The coordination and planning of housing and community development at the federal, state and local levels have just recently begun to adequately address our pressing housing needs.

Even the blessed service to old age, Social Security, has not been possible without increasing taxes.

There are inconsistencies everywhere, but this is not preachment for or against one side or the other. Rather we are dealing with a fact, with a situation.

We are all living in different times from our grandparents — socially, economically and scientifically. Indeed, there can be much questioning on whether "the good old days" were really that good for most people.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds..." One rewriting reads that "I consistency is the last resort of cowards." One might also say that there is a price to pay for being "consistent" or for being "inconsistent. What we mean is that nature and history have a way of balancing out man's decisions.

Continued inflation in Germany, after World War I, led to the monied cries of Germany and to the rise and reign of Adolf Hitler.

A runaway Wall Street (the stock market and the banks) led to the American depression of the 1930s — a depression which became worldwide.

The U.S. South for over 100 years, enjoyed the inconsistency of jim-crow laws and practices, while paying homage to the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Messiah. But, in the 1960s, this inconsistency led to the federal voting acts and the civil rights laws.

He who kills the goose that laid the golden eggs, may soon find that he has no eggs and, of course, no goose.

Every consistency or inconsistency we practice, or think of, deserves close examination.

Now and then... by g. james fleming

Inconsistencies, order of the day

There was a time when a debater would challenge his opponent to "Be consistent!" or accuse him of "being inconsistent." Our great-grandmothers and great-grandfathers also often indulged in the warnings. Consistency, not so long ago, was a fundamental virtue.

Once, we heard a white "friend of the Negro" complain that "Negroes and their organizations are not consistent." We recall also hearing or reading a reply, explaining "why Negroes in America cannot be consistent." Because "the overall society is not consistent in dealing with Negroes."

But! in the 1970s, there are many other examples of inconsistencies throughout the length and breadth of the social farbic.

For instance, we deplore the statistics and realities of unemployment but, at the same time, the social emphasis is on enticing females who have never worked to enter the job market and leave the home and kitchen behind.

Or, despite unemployment, the world turns increasingly to machinery which makes human beings increasingly surplus for many jobs that call only for strong backs or routine skills.

Can the society enjoy increased women in employment, and more and more technological expansion, and also avoid unemployment and underemployment?

Or, will we have to face it and accept the fact that x per cent of our population (men and women) will have to be unemployed for substantial periods of time, while the rest of us (including ourselves) support them through the taxes we pay?

Or, take inflation. From what we read, it is mounting wages, mounting buying, and mounting prices that lead to inflation. Notwithstanding all the warnings against inflation, however, all segments of the society contend for higher pay and buy more and more at higher prices.

The rank and file, and their leaders in industry and government, are paying little attention to the threats and woes of inflation. For most of us, we are living in a period of "Progress." The reports of banks show that Americans are saving more than ever, renting more and purchasing increasingly plush homes, and buying more cars, with more of them in the luxury brackets.

Even on a public college campus, where most of the enrollees come from sociologically poor families, the styles of cars and the variety of shoes and boots are (happily so, perhaps) not consistent with living on the poverty line.

Another clash of inconsistency versus consistency is the continual pressure from all people everywhere for more services from their governments. At the same time, from these same people, there are cries of the burden of rising taxes. Nevertheless, there can scarcely be one without the other.

Taxes could be lowered everywhere if modern communities were willing to live in the grove, but as long as men and women insist on flush toilets, safe drinking water, express highways, better school educational systems, and sophisticated hospitals, taxes will rise.

A little about a lot... by madeline murphy

Private ownership loots the public

In highlighting, through blaring headlines: "the ugly side of darkness", the real villain of the episode of the New York blackout was surrounded, comforted and shielded by the same press who acted as apologists for a mammoth incompetent monopoly—Consolidated Edison.

What we witnessed was the looting not by the poor and black and Spanish surnamed, who committed crimes in the main against property (and I in no way condone looting), but Con Edison who disrupted lives, caused food spoilage at a time when food costs are at their highest, physical injury, loss of wages. And without lights or water, the sick and elderly had to fend perilously for themselves.

All this when just two days prior to the blackout Con Edison announced there would be no danger from a major blackout or brown out.

Since the great blackout of '65, one might justifiably ask the question, how can a mammoth monopoly get away with constantly demanding higher rates and getting them?

For the company continues in a pattern of inefficiency that has not abated since 1967 when a half mile section of the Bronx was blacked out; when two areas of Queens, 6,000 homes in 1968 in Staten Island, 23,000 in Brooklyn that same year and eastern Queens in 1969 were affected.

Moreover, major blackouts and brownouts have escalated in the ensuing years four times in 1971; twice in 1972; thrice in 1973; once in 1974.

All the while nuclear power plants have been built, the supposed solution to the need for more energy, but evidently the placebo that attaches to it less efficiency and higher rates.

At the same time, the New York State Public Service Commission has increased Con Ed's rates in the last two and a half years 25 per cent.

Now armed with an "act of God" excuse, Con Edison says it will add the charges to the bills of the consumers for restoring power because of extra over time and equipment.

And so despite the increase of $212,400,000 that consumers paid between 1975 and 1976; and $64,400,000 in the first three months of 1977, more of the burden of an inefficient system will be carried by the consumers while Con Ed raked in profits for the first three months of the year of $12,600.00; for 1976, $82.7 million; and 1975, $95 million.

Although the state's public service commission has ordered Con Ed to pay up to $100 to each individual for food spoilage due to cut off of refrigeration, will it do so without forcing claimants to go to additional expense and time of suing in Small Claims Court?

And in reviewing only the highlights of the looting of consumers by Con Edison, one comes closer to home and wonders if this kind of catastrophe strikes us here in Baltimore, how we would fare.

Perhaps the time is long overdue when monopolies like the power companies should be forced to divest themselves of this huge money maker and turn it over to public ownership.

There is a town in up-state New York, Massena, near Niagra Falls that has been working since 1974 to force public ownership of Niagara Mohawk.

A group of trade unionists got together a petition drive and forced, the Mohawk Township Board to study ways to publicly take over the power company. By purchasing power directly from the N.Y. State dam on the St. Lawrence seaway, they found that the people would realize savings of up to 35 per cent on their monthly bills.

In educating the public they sent out handbills listing the salaries and names of top executive and fees of board members. Subsequently, a referendum to gain public ownership passed overwhelmingly.

We better follow the lead of over 2,200 publicly owned utility companies nationwide, if we expect a more equitable and humane method of dispensing energy in this city.

Forecasts of next winter clearly indicate another severe cold spell.

The poor, ill and elderly are usually victimized by cut-offs for not paying bills when they must choose from their meager income between paying the rent, buying food or paying utility bills.

The unconscionable profit picture of utility companies should be measured against the cold attitude poor people experience while everyone pays more and more for less and less energy. It should be a clear mandate that we must change this turn of events.

This will happen, however, only when the public dares to organize, like people in Massena, N.Y., and slays the hulking, looting, greedy giant.

And at the same time this might be the first step toward forcing divestiture also of private ownership of oil, gasoline and natural gas companies—

Poet's corner

Summer Vacation

Another fly has buzzed my ear
Where he lands on me, he doesn't care

The temperature is 101
And only the fly is having fun.

DOROTHY C. ALVES

"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

The phone company wants another bite

By Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins

A senior citizen in my district sent me a letter today, which has caused me great alarm, on a number of very serious accounts.

It appears from an article that accompanied the letter, that the Pacific Telephone Company in the Los Angeles area is about to launch another attack on consumer pocketbooks.

The latest proposed gimmick is called SMRT—Single Message Rate Timing.

It's a very simple operation: Instead of being able to talk as long as you wish on a local call, SMRT would impose 5 cents for every five minutes of telephone conversation. You would also be liable to pay for "portions thereof" of any such conversation.

So that if you talked 5 minutes and some seconds, you would then get charged for 2 message units or 10 cents—even though you did not converse for the full 10 minutes.

The company's reason: to prevent telephone abuse by persons who talk too long. (Isn't this thoughtful of them!)

This system has already been instituted in some areas in Southern California, but there's a hold on any more such installations until the matter has undergone some study.

My letter-writing constituent is quite upset about this situation, because as she says:

"If this awful thing is allowed to pass, it will strangle us. With all the violence and crime we (especially the aged and poor) depend on the phone more than ever. Most of our visits now are by phone.

"Imagine an extra charge after 5 minutes. The phone is our lifeline."

This new device is part and parcel of a continued raid on the consumer's purse-strings. We've all experienced the move to make telephone users pay for information.

And the days of the 10 cents call from a telephone booth, is now a thing of the past.

What next?

Well obviously these moves by the telephone company are not the way to win friends and influence people.

I believe that a back-lash to this latest attempt will be felt fairly soon. And on a number of fronts. A major move by consumers ought to certainly include tons of mail to their State Public Utilities Commissions, protesting SMRT.

Letters to members of congress on this issue also should be sent.

In addition, I believe that the Congress will now, more carefully than ever, thoroughly examine the need for an independent Consumer Protection Agency.

And the Congress will probably also carefully scrutinize the telephone company's support for the Consumer Communication Reform Act—which would keep the telephone company from having any competition in producing telephone hardware.

And oh yes, I intend to get a letter out to my constituent, to tell her that I'll fight all moves to straddle senior citizens with unnecessary and exorbitant telephone bills.

Sickle-Cell support

Dear AFRO:
The Baltimore Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation and thanks to all the citizens of the Baltimore area for their support and participation at its Second Annual Disco Skate-a-thon on Monday, July 11, 1977.

It was rewarding to see the enthusiasm of the skaters who came out to skate for the battle against sickle cell anemia.

Special thanks to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper.

CLAYBOURNE W. BLACK
Chairman,
Baltimore Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc.

Save social concern

Dear AFRO:
The Maryland Conference of Social Concern is threatened with a curtailment or closing of its office. This would be a crushing blow to the interests of poor people of the state of Maryland. As an educational and advocacy group concerned with a wide range of social issues, the Maryland Conference has been an active, effective voice on behalf of the disadvantaged.

The Maryland Conference is sometimes critical of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services and other public and private agencies.

But its criticisms are always fair and informed and made out of a dedication to the welfare of poor people.

The community should rally on behalf of the Maryland Conference and assist in providing the financial support so its vital work can continue.

KALMAN R. HETTLEMAN
Director
Department of Social Services

Untie the dogs

Dear AFRO:
People (even animal lovers) have a "keep em tied" phobia about dogs.

In the severe hot weather we are having now, it tears one apart to see a dog tied, without proper shelter from the blazing sun.

Dogs, too, suffer from heat (just like their owners!) and die from over-exposure.

I urge people to take better care of their animals

B. J. SMALL

Musical thank you note

Dear AFRO:
Thank you very much for informing the public of our many activities that have occurred within the department of music at Morgan State University.

You really have done a great job informing your may readers of our numerous programs, concerts and calendar events during the years.

Your continued assistance in getting the information to the public has really showed in attendance.

Thanks again for the many ways in which you have made our programs a big success.

GWENDOLYN M. GOODE,
Secretary
Department of Music

Young beat... by larry young

Ban throwaway cans and bottles

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

In 1967 Americans threw out 70 billion beverage containers. If all those cans and bottles were lined up end to end, they would stretch out over five million miles — far enough to circle the earth over 200 times!

But of course they aren't lined up end to end. Most of these throwaway bottles and cans end up as litter along roadsides, in alleys, on beaches and in our parks. Many others pollute our streams and lakes. Even the ones that are "disposed of properly" burden our landfills and cost us nearly $500 million per year in extra garbage collection costs.

No matter how you look at it, a throwaway bottle or can is a waste. Throwaways waste energy. The U.S. Federal Energy Administration found that returning to returnables (bottles and cans) would save the energy equivalent of 20 million barrels of oil every year.

Throwaways waste money. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency discovered that returnables are 30 per cent cheaper than throwaways. Another study showed that consumers would save $1.8 billion per year if all beverage containers had deposits.

Throwaways waste jobs. In its study, the Federal Energy Administration found that 117,000 net new jobs would be created if the U.S. went back to returnables.

I believe Congress should enact a mandatory deposit law which would place a five-cent deposit on all beverage containers, thus guaranteeing they will be brought back for refilling or recycling.

In 1972 Oregon passed the nation's first statewide deposit law. In 1973 Vermont followed suit. Last year in unprecedented environmental victories, the voters in Michigan and Maine overwhelmingly passed deposit referenda despite million-dollar campaigns by industry opponents. Meanwhile, by December, 1977, all containers sold on federal properties will be required to carry a deposit, too. But Congress still has not passed a nationwide deposit law.

The Legislation: In the Senate, Senator Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. had intoduced S.276, the Beverage Container Re-Use and Recycling Act.

In the House of Representatives, an indentical bill—H.R. 936 has been introduced by Rep. James Jeffords, R-Vt.

These bills would (1) require a mandatory five-cent deposit on all beer and soft drink containers to go into effect three years after enactment. (The Act would NOT ban any type of container.) And (2) prohibit the sale of "flip-top" detachable tabs on all beer and soft drink containers one year after enactment.

What You Can Do: Write your representative and your two senators and tell them of your support of H.R.936 and S.276, the Beverage Container Re-Use and Recycling Act. Ask them specifically if they have co-sponsored the bill. (Your letters are most effective if you ask for a response. It is also best to give personal reason for wanting this law passed. For instance, you might send a picture of littered containers in your yard, street, highway, park or playground or you might concentrate on the waste of tax money cleaning up throwaways.)

If any of your legislators refuse to co-sponsor the bill, make an appointment to visit him or her in the district office. Bring some of your neighbors and reiterate your position. Find out why he or she is not in favor of a cleaner environment.

Don't forget the follow-up. If a legislator takes your position, thank him (But make sure he doesn't change his mind!). If he opposes you, keep up the pressure. Periodically send new information, litter surveys, surveys on the availability or returnables, new statements of support, local opinion pools, petitions, price surveys, etc.

If your market sells returnables, buy them. If it doesn't, complain to the manager.

Organize a "Trash-a-thon," asking people to sponsor litter cleaners and the money can pay for your local bottle bill campaign.

If you want more information, contact Pam Deuel at Environmental Action, Suite 731, 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. But remember, without your help this battle won't be won. TAKE ACTION NOW!

Where to Write: Senator ..., U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510. Representative ..., U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Don't forget to support the AFRO Clean Block Campaign!

Protect your kids from crime

By Clarence M. Kelley
FBI Director

Nothing is more valuable to us than our children. So why not insulate them from becoming the criminal's victim as much as possible by applying some basic—yet very practical—crime resistance rules where the youngsters are concerned.

(1) The old rule about never taking candy from a stranger—is still a good rule. Tell them not to take candy, a ride or even a walk with a stranger. Tell them why!

(2) Tell them never admit to being home alone—on the phone or to someone at the door.

(3) Give the school instructions only to release your children to the people you have designated in writing—in case of emergency.

(4) Locate and point out "block parent" or similar homes in the neighborhood or along the route to school to your children and explain the meaning of such refuges.

(5) Select one or two neighbors who will provide sanctuary for children should any threat or emergency arise while you are away from them. Provide that neighbor with phone numbers where you can usually be reached. Offer to do the same for those neighbors.

(6) Instruct children to look out for each other and to tell you when something unusual or suspicious occurs.

(7) Report suspicious individuals or vehicles lurking in areas where children congregate to the police. Obtain license numbers and descriptions whenever possible.

(8) Be prepared to assist a child who appears lost or in trouble. Do not hesitate to notify the police if you think a child needs assistance.

Wanting to protect our children is part of loving them. Crime resistance is part of protecting them. Don't throw this message away—keep it where you will see it; pass it on to other parents.

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, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

MRS. BEATRICE HILL

Mrs. Beatrice Hill, a resident of the Murphy Homes was named for the Salute by a reader who describes herself as "a person with an eye for the wonderfulness of people."

The letter states, "For more than 30 years, Mrs. Hill has worked with the Clean Block Campaign and is interested in all activities for the good of the community. She serves as a RAP representative."

"RAP," Mrs. Hill explained, "is the Resident Advisory Board. I am also president of the Tenant Council which recently sponsored the Murphy Homes Festival."

Mrs. Hill is busy trying to see that all areas of the Murphy Homes are represented in the Clean Block Campaign.

Born and reared in Baltimore, Mrs. Hill is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Goldie and Anna Toyer.

She has two sisters, Mrs. Edna Chase and Mrs. Irene Shelton, both of Baltimore.

Our honoree is married to Julius Hill and they have eight children, ranging from age 9 to 36.

In addition to her many community activities, Mrs. Hill and her husband are rearing three grandchildren.

The family attends Providence Baptist Church where she had served as a member of the refreshment committee.

NOWADAYS

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: Please settle an argument for me. I say that all the digging on Eutaw St. has to do with the subway. My friend says that new lines are being installed by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. Who is right?—N.J.

ANSWER: "Both of you are partially correct. A spokesman at the Public Information office of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company told AFRO Line:

The crew working on Eutaw St. is under contract to us. It is laying new lines in connection with the coming subway."

QUESTION: We live in the 900 block Whitmore Ave. and for the past three nights we have observed a bat in the bush in the front of our home. My daughter is afraid to go down the walkway. Is there anything that can be done to get rid of it?—P.S.

ANSWER: A spokesman at the Department of Housing told AFRO Line:

"There is nothing that we can do about the bats. A bat is a protective species because they eat insects. They are not vampires or bloodsuckers as myths would have them. We can only recommend that you use moth balls to repell them if they get in the eaves of your roof. If a bat gets inside your house, turn on all the lights and when evening comes open the windows and the bat will fly out.

"The bat will not bite unless it is given cause to. Then the percentage that it is rabid is very small. It is much greater in dogs and rats."

The next day following this conversation, Thursday, July 22, local papers published the following account:

"The 16-year old son of Maryland Health Secretary Dr. Neil S[illegible]mon today will brave the last of anti-rabies shots ordered after he was bitten by a bat July 6.

"Anti-rabies shots are given directly into the fat layer lining the abdominal wall and are usually quite painful...

"Clifford received two shots daily the first week, then one a day the second week. After today's shot he will wait 10 days to receive a 22nd and 10 more days for the last.

"...Solomon agrees the incident can alert Marylanders to the threat of rabid bites.

"Clifford feels that if others can learn to watch out for bats to detect the bite, it would have been worthwhile."

Stars and you

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — Your present love will grow stronger or a new love will occur. Either way, you will be happy for a long time.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — One hour a day should be devoted to chores you consider unpleasant. Never attempt to do it all at one time.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Work will slow down enough to allow you to catch your breath and give you a chance to organize. Take advantage of it because the momentum is sure to pick up again.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Plan a simple menu for your upcoming affair. Prepare most things in advance so you can enjoy yourself.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-August 23) — Your feelings of anger are unjustified. One who you feel has wronged you has done absolutely nothing.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (August 24-Sept. 23) — Refrain from trying so hard to impress others. Your popularity will increase if you are yourself.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — You waste a great deal of time talking about things over which you have no control. A good conversationalist is short and to the point.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Continue to be gracious even when others are not. Inspirational readings will develop greater peace of mind.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your basic insecurity causes you to believe that someone with whom you are involved is a threat to you. Straighten out your thinking.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Your past is catching up with you. Remember when it does, it is a case of reaping what you have sown.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Your decision to be more of a conformist will make you much happier. So will those who love you.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Begin today to start enjoying life. Your dull, humdrum routine is making you a bore to others.

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 accomodation, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION — 383-3680

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

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE — 396-1111

FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-1313

POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333.

HOUSING, HEATING LIGHT — 234-2172 or 234-2412

SERVICE

ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-0218

CRIMINAL INJURIES resulting from robberies or assaults — 523-5000

DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS — 396-3168

DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL — 383-2726

FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2783

LEGAL AID — 539-5340

PENSION REFORM — 962-3914

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Brooklyn Branch, 300 Patapsco Ave., are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the library staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

THE CHINA EXPERT, by Michael Delving. Mystery and intrigue revolves around the theft of a priceless Sung vase.

JU