OPINION

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A look at the March of Dimes

Media representatives – black and white, renowned and unknown – gathered this week to accept "gifts of appreciation" from the National Foundation-March of Dimes.

For three hours Tuesday, the March of Dimes had given its best shot at winning and dining the media reps in celebration of the organization's 40th anniversary.

But there was a catch to all the hoopla which will become more evident in the next three months when the March of Dimes begin to use local media outlets to reach the public.

If the past is any indication of the future, newspapers and broadcast stations will give up space and time to inform readers and listeners about events sponsored by the organization. In may instances readers will be encouraged to participate.

In predominantly black Baltimore, this is particularly interesting. Out of ten paid employees at the Greater Baltimore Chapter of the March of Dimes, none are black, according to Shelly Hyatt, a spokesperson at the Baltimore office. "But we have black volunteers on our board of directors," she later explained.

The black board members of the Greater Baltimore Chapter include E. Robert Umthery Mrs. Milton B. Allen, Ernest E. Boston Jr., Ms. Ruth Pratt, Dr. Oakley Saunders, and Dr. Fitzpatrick Wilson.

Ms. Pratt, who seemed surprised to find out there were no blacks employed at the Baltimore Chapter said she would express her concern about the problem at the next board meeting.

"This is something tht needs to be looked into," Ms. Pratt said. "As a board member I will bring that to their attention. I certainly wouldn't want to be on a board that practices discrimination.

"With the unemployment rate among blacks as high as it is, their should be some employed there, since blacks do contribute to the campaign," she added.

When asked why no blacks were employed at the office, Ms. Hyatt said that at present there are no openings at the Baltimore office.

"We have had black employees in the past who have left for various reasons," Ms. Hyatt said. She added that the last black person who worked at the office left two months ago.

Considering the employment situation and the economic conditions of black persons in Baltimore, this becomes an important question for residents in giving to such an organization.

This is not to slight the charitable group that Franklin D. Roosevelt helped to organize, but it must be pointed out that dimes do add up.

Consider the following:

The Greater Baltimore Chapter of the March of Dimes has a $1,023,358 budget for fiscal year 1978, according to a report presented to and approved by its Board of Directors on December 6, 1977.

This compares with a budget of $959,989 for fiscal year 1977, the report says.

The budget for the national headquarters for 1978 is phenomenal when you realize that 100 per cent of the contributions for the March of Dimes comes from charitable contributions.

For fiscal year 1977, the annual report says, $57,375,324 was allocated. This compares with the 1976 budget of $52,970,562.

If you agree that dimes do have a way of adding up it is hard to rationalize the fact that in the 40-year history of the The National Foundation-March of Dimes, there have been no national black poster children.

In the same time span, there have been only three black poster children for the Greater Baltimore Chapter, none were from Baltimore Ms. Hyatt said.

In the next three months the Greater Baltimore Chapter will sponsor a walk-a-thon, a decathlon, a mother's march, and other special events and activities. All are fund raising by activities designed to get every segment of the community to participate.

One final point.

According to a booklet printed by the March of Dimes, among Americans of all ages birth defects afflict at least 4 million people with diabetes; 580,000 who are completely or partially blind; 350,000 with heart or circulatory defects; 300,000 with congential hearing impairment; 170,000 with severe speech problems; and millions more with defects of the nervous, digestive, endocrine, urinary and other body systems.

Look for the March of Dimes to promote this and other information via the media to solicit your modest contributions.

Black Marylanders are generous to a fault but we must begin to more closely examine national local charities. The local March of Dimes record prompts us to stress this point.

Justice for black women

With all the hopes and fears involved in the words "Women's Liberation," there are facts which should not be ignored. Women have special problems that have no racial or class boundaries. No woman is free of cultural injustices. We all need some degree of "liberation.

Much attention has been given to juvenile delinquents in the media for the past few weeks. Girls and women are discriminated against in the justice system, be it juvenile or adult.

Girls and women have been involved in the judicial system, more often for acts which are not violent against persons or property. Sexual related offenses, truancy, shoplifting and incorrigible behavior constituted the highest percentage of charges against girls prior to the mid 1960's.

In reading about reforms pertaining to either punishment or treatment, Maryland suffers from inadequate government appropriations just as other states.

We are concerned and work harder for change than some systems. The fact of the matter is that we do not have programs of equal involvement for males and females.

We will have to be more vigilant in preventing girls from being sent to an institution for status offenses. It is important that we understand that a status offense is conduct which would not be criminal if committed by adults. This means that being truant, disobedient, sexually acting out are examples of status offenses.

Because the Maryland legislature does not give top priority to our justice system, there are serious lacks in short-term or long-term facilities or programs. The most serious lacks are in services for females.

Nationwide there are fewer Job Corps programs for young women. Prison work-study and training programs are more limited for females than for males. Private foster homes for non-delinquent adolescent girls in Baltimore City and throughout the state are seriously lacking.

One of the areas in which churches, clubs, or sororities can give valuable service would be support for females brought within the court system.

Blacks need to get more involved in reforming the justice system for juveniles and adults. There are citizen groups functioning on a statewide basis.

Marion C. Banfield

(Editor's Note: Mrs. Banfield is an expert on social welfare problems. She will be a regular contributor to our pages in 1978.)

Charm City priorities: New skyline or longer bread line

G. JAMES FLEMING NOW AND THEN:

Bakke case: Summons to new responsibility

By G. James Fleming

Regardless of the outcome of the Bakke Case, black Americans have a new challenge and a new responsibility, warned the Solicitor General of the United States, Wade H. McCree Jr., in addressing the public meeting of the 61st Grand Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity last week in Denver.

"Affirmative action will not, and cannot, last forever. It is only an emergency concept. Blacks and other minorities cannot wish to carry forever the burden of needing special arrangements and favors," McCree declared.

He was quick to point out, however, that where colleges and universities are concerned, there has always been "affirmative action" that has favored athletes, children of alumni, children of the wealthy and others.

He also reminded his 1,500 listeners that there are several different ways of measuring talent, and that all tests have a cultural factor, usually reflecting the points of view and the values of those who draft the tests and those who are the dominant decision-makers of the society.

Expanding on his own thesis, the Solicitor General said that "Organizations, such as Kappa Alpha Psi, must start now to draft plans and programs, if they have not already done so, which will make college aspirants ready and able to pass whatever admission tests are given for entrance to undergraduate, and later, graduate and professional schools."

He warned that it is not enough to protest; that minority groups must take the steps to overcome their handicaps, where they exist, and to meet the requirements that are exacted for whatever they wish to achieve and accomplish.

Speaking of a day when he was Acting Attorney General of the United States, McCree was himself a reminder of the thousands of blacks, down the years, who have never needed any favors from "the system," only a fair break. He was a reminder of the endless number of black Americans who have met all competition and achieved.

Indeed, the emphasis was on achievement throughout the four-day meeting of the Kappas. One of the highlights was the bestowal of the Fraternity's Humanitarian Award on Judge John J. Sirica, U.S. federal judge, famed for his part in the outcome of the Watergate Case.

Judge Sirica could not be present in person, for health reasons and the silver bowl and citation were received for him by proxy. This is the fraternity's highest honor to a non-member.

Within the organization, the Laurel Wreath — highest honor for a member — was awarded to two members. The first went to Dr. William Thomas Carter, of the U.S. Office of Education, formerly an officer of the Peace Corps in several countries, and still earlier, head of the foreign language department of Virginia State College.

The second recipient of the Laurel Wreath was Ceasar Felton "Zip" Gayles, one of the most popular and successful athletic coaches of the Southwest, a member of the Oklahoma Football Hall of Fame, a revered counsellor to students at Langston University, and a member of the fraternity for more than 50 years.

The highest honor for an undergraduate was bestowed on Henry D. Lewis, a 1977 graduate of Morgan State University, with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He received the Guy L. Grant medallion with citation. Lewis is now engaged in industrial engineering in his hometown of Hampton, Va.

Of all the happenings at the "Keemakinga conclave," however, most talked about was the address of U.S. Solicitor General McCree, both because of what he said and because of what he represented as a black American who had achieved in higher education, the law, the judiciary and politics.

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

Givers and takers

By Madeline W. Murphy

Recently a young married woman sighed and said, "There are givers and takers in this world. I just happen to be a giver."

Inherent in this admission is the ideal of selflessness, a noble virtue, nevertheless fraught with perverse selfishness.

Because giving is often abdication, a cowardly laissez - faire way of achieving peace at any price. And in so doing, spoiled husbands and children blithely expect as their due the overwhelming sacrifice of wife and mother.

Selflessness can become non-involvelent. It can even become so impersonal, a duty, an obligation, a delaying tactic, that all sensitivity becomes numbed, submerged, and the giver becomes a sombie, a thing to be used, manipulated, ultimately destroyed in self-pity.

A giver who has developed parasites in her midst and becomes a prisoner in her own home, must hide to find herself, never having the right to privacy, the opportunity to express and become herself.

Moreover, her normally demanding role as wife and mother is transformed into harried housewife.

Finally when patience wears thin; when demands become so excessive and frequent, they cannot be met; when all the agility of emotionally "walking on eggs" — "wearing kid gloves" is totally exhausted, she pays mightily for that dubious peace.

Bewilderment and surprise surface from the pampered husband: "What makes you act like that?"; from the children, who hear the rare sharp words and shouts, who balk at the sudden strict discipline; "What's wrong with Mommy?", are all indications that the givers and takers have formed a dangerous imbalance where things can no longer remain the same for sanity's sake.

Yet husband and children stubbornly test this new resolve with wily, self - indulgent sulking, wearing it down, as if to reinforce their former control and tyranny.

Givers and takers also anesthetize their maturity, while nurturing their insecurities. They never discover who they really are nor deal with those hard realities of affirming their strengths and coping with their weaknesses in a shared relationship.

The husband - takers, childish in their resolve to remain as guests in their own homes — fed, clothed, coddled, catered to — must reveal their possessiveness, jealousy, deviousness so that all attention continues to be centered around them.

The children - takers, bewildered, not knowing what threatens their dominant positions, act out their frustrations by teasing, frequent bursts of temper, hunger strikes, tears, disobedience to hold fast to their center.

It is difficult today among those young people involved in coupling, to straddle the cultural shock between open marriage, living together, delayed child rearing, career choices and individualism and the models of mothers and fathers whose marriages were built upon shared self - sacrifice and responsibility, larger families, homemaking roles by their actions affirm that they must stick together through thick or thin.

Moreover with more money, faster travel, realization of career goals, confusion over innumerable options accompanied by pervasive racism; (when becoming part of the system might require a return to house - Negro postures), confusion, frustration, copelessness result in spiralling divorce and suicide rates, dope and alcohol addiction, violence, abuse or dropping out completely.

The changes required to cope become painful experiences on an uncharted course. Times have changed so radically. The superficiality in pandering to this new culture as seen in churches, schools, homes, office, the media, to "do one's own thing" has become the new religion of this generation.

We, however, are helpless for we cannot sit back and pontificate, give advice from a middle-aged perspective. Our way as the right way has become doubtful. For there are far more influences, stimuli, conflicting signals.

It is even doubtful, as we older ones hope, that the unity of family prayer, understanding the meaning of faith and a Supreme Being are enough. That the fundamental participation, not merely passively enjoying another form of entertainment in a community of believers, can be the anchor that will check drifting meaningless lives of a generation whose narcissism adheres to the creed of looking out for number one; of separating into warring factions of givers and takers.

But with all these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, we as a remarkable race of people have survived.

Perhaps the growing pains of adjustment will cease. Perhaps our young adults will revert to our historical spiritual, sharing, nurturing nature. Perhaps our prayers for the New Year: "God Bless Thee - Thy goings out, Thy comings in - thy home, thy friends - thy kith and kin; thy hopes and plans, thy work or rest - God bless them as He seeth best - In grief and pain, in joy and cheer - in all He sends - God bless thy year!" shall be heeded and answered in 1978.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING

Gray bigotry

By Dr. Matthew Tayback
Dr. Tayback is state director on aging.

Maybe even Archie Bunker, videoland's model bigot, would not be so hard on blacks, Puerto Ricans and other ethnic minorities if he knew he was going to turn into a minority group member on his 65th birthday.

We sometimes show a similar intolerance by exhibiting attitudes that point up a relatively new social stereotype — agism.

In our earlier years, we wish fervently to achieve long life, while at the same time we often make fun of those who do. What we are really doing is laughing at ourselves, scoffing at what we will become when we enter senior citizenship.

Aging is shrouded in myths that have very little to do with the actual circumstances of growing old. Most of the disabilities we attribute to age are the results of prejudice and misunderstanding.

"It's not true that older people become less intelligent, less employable or asexual. But if society believes these things, it tends to produce in older people a self-fulfilling prophecy. Racism and sexism are out of date. It's about time we realized agism is out of date, too," said Dr. Alex Comfort, author, biologist and a leading authority on gerontology, the study of aging.

Many experts feel the myth that we can expect to live only the traditional "threescore years and ten" is largely responsible for the fact that in America only 0.4 per cent of the population lives to reach 100. Contrast this to the experience of the Abkhasians, a group of Russians living in the Black Sea area who grow up fully expecting to live long and healthy lives. The Abkhasians are of the opinion that youth extends to age 80. Of their total population 2.58 percent live to become centenarians.

The trend in America is also towards longer life, though we have yet to match the life expectancy of the Abkhasians. In this country, statistics show the chance of reaching 65 today is twice what it was at the turn of the last century.

To reach the later years, according to Dr. George Sharpe, who once taught at the University of Maryland, "We must be cognizant of the way we live while we are still in our 20's."

But it is never really too late to strengthen our chances for a longer life. Dr. Sharpe lists these suggestions:

—Increase both mental and physical stimulation. "Evidence shows that individuals with certain heart problems may be improved by graduated, modest and sustained exercise. It doesn't seem to be ever too late to encourage increases in activity to forestall the ravages of aging," Dr. Sharpe said.

—Good nutrition and variation in food should be considered in all stages of life.

—Do not be put off by the agist assumption that old age and sexual activity are incompatible. Age is no barrier to sex, the doctor says, adding that he has known many men who have become fathers in their 90's.

What really counts is not your calendar age but the way you feel about it, your attitude towards aging. Hopefully, we can free ourselves from the myths that lead some of us into senility and inactivity in later life.

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).

LESLIE KING HAMMOND ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

By Dr. Leslie King Hammond
Dean Graduate Studies, Maryland Institute of Art

Writing a column on fine black artistic community in the Baltimore area is never a complete task unless the writer periodically makes the readers aware of activities they might like to attend or view such as lectures or exhibitions. Too often observations and arguments are lost because very few people have been able to see or experience an event in the arts and have very little information to form an opinion of their own.

What follows is a wide cross - section of events occurring during the month of January in which black artists will display their talents. This list is not comprehensive, yet it does reflect the wide range and variety of activities which are happening in this area.

The participants in these events include Baltimore City public school children, college level graduate students and private professional artists. Also included is a series of lectures on the status of the black artist in Baltimore City.

It is hoped the community will take the opportunity to participate or attend at least one of these events during January.

Through May 21
Morgan State University, "Cross Section of the Gallery of Art Collection," prints, paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs, Galleries I and II, Murphy Fine Arts Center.

Jan. 8 through 27
The Johns Hopkins University, "Families," Baltimore City elementary schools, Barclay No. 54, Margaret Brent No. 53, Guilford No. 214, Hampden No. 55, Medfield Heights No. 249.

Jan. 8 through 31
Mary Our Queen Catholic Church, North Charles Street, "Works by Artists from the Baltimore Black Arts Calendar."

Jan. 9 through 31
Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md., O'Neill Troy Hammond, one - man show of drawings and paintings, Gallery I.

Jan. 18, 19, 20
"Life is a Quality Experience," lecture series, Center Stage Theatre, noon to 1 p.m.
Dr. Leslie King Hammond, art historian, topics include:
"The Black Visual Artist as an Independent Entity in Baltimore";
"Baltimore's Centers of Black Artistic Energy and Input" and
"Black Artistic Expression in Baltimore, the Community the City, the Nation, the World."

Jan. 1 through Feb. 5
The Maryland Institute, College of Art, Decker Gallery, Hoffberger School of Painting, "An Exhibition of Works by Sixteen Graduate Students in Paintings."

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

TO KEEP YOU POSTED

MARVIN MANDEL, still governor in name only, will be the main topic whispered behind hands as the General Assembly opens Wednesday, Jan. 11. When Senate President Steny Hoyer presides, it is not likely he will get trapped in the fact that Maryland's 56th governor has been found guilty of corruption. Instead he will probably merely say Lt. Gov. Blair Lee is serving as acting governor and then go on from there.

THE DAY will possibly bring more pain to Mandel than the time the jury found him guilty and the news flashed around the world. Mandel, elected by the largest majority in history in 1970, was selected in 1971 as chairman of the Democratic Governor's Conference by all the nation's governors.

THE PHOTO dominating the Maryland Manual is the one they say Mandel's second wife Jeanne Dorsey had made and duplicated at cost of $75,000. Fact is Mandel's image can hardly be wiped out and will continue to pop up during the Assembly's 90 day period.

SENATOR CLARENCE M. MITCHELL, III, elected to the House at age 24 as the youngest in General Assembly history, has been a senator since 1967. He will steal the show again this session as he takes the floor against the Death Penalty Bill.

DEL. ARTHUR G. MURPHY SR. will head the Legislative Black Caucus and succeed Sen. Robert Douglass but — some delegates say, "There's many a slip between the cup and the lip."

GOV. LEE's reception at the Mansion the day the Assembly opens, will show just how far he has dug into the job he wants to hold as Maryland's chief executive. Won't it be embarrassing if he has to move out and give the house up to Mandel (if he wins the appeal) or to Steny Hoyer if he's elected).

BLACK CAUCUS members number five senators and 14 delegates. Ike White could have been elected the sixth senator had death not claimed him most untimely.

DEL. PINKNEY HOWELL is most popular in Baltimore as he quietly looks after the needy in every capacity, winter, summer, sping or fall.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S Sen. Broadwater and Dels. Trotter and Exum are part of the strongest group of Assemblymen and if Hoyer becomes governor they'll rise to the top like cream.

DEL. HATTIE HARRISON, appointed to the House April 26, 1972 to fill the spot vacated by the death of James A. Scott Jr. (Turk), will as usual, be a striking figure in smart pant suits.

SENIOR HOUSE MEMBER, Del. Troy Brailey, is on the Task Force on Collective Bargaining for Public Employees and considered the most influential.

DEL. JOHN W. DOUGLASS is the most powerful and the only chairman of any committee, the Joint Budget and Audit Committee. Sen. Blount is member of the Legislative Policy Committee; Del. Walter Dean is member of the Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation and Sen. Welcome member of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.

DELS. LLOYAL RANDOLPH, Ike Dixon and Joseph Chester are the most likely to be heard when listening time and opinions come up.

DEL. DEAN heads the Medicaid subcommittee.

NO MINISTER, pastor or clergyman may be elected to the General Assembly, although the body deals with such laws as necessary for the welfare of citizens and church members as well.

CALENDAR — Jan. 6 — New Theatre - non - stop laughter - Richard Pryor, Which Way is Up.
Jan. 6 - Civic Center - Stanley Turrentine
Jan. 10 - Court House - Swearing in, Supreme Judge Sol. Baylor
Jan. 11 - Annapolis - General Assembly - 10 a.m.
Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King birthday holiday
Jan. 18 - Annapolis - State of State Message State House - 11 a.m.
Feb. 8 - Ash Wednesday - Lent begins
March 17 - St. Patricks Day - planting season opens
March 19 - Palm Sunday
March 24 - Good Friday
March 26 - Easter Sunday

LETTERS

Keep out this means you

Dear AFRO:

If Francis Burch is wondering if area country clubs are segregated, Mr. Burch can stop wondering.

Of course some minority person can join but he is going to be given the treatment. The unwanted joiner can expect to be ostracized, ignored, sneered at, snickered at, given the silent treatment and confronted with hostility.

I remember when Dr. Ralph Bunch's son tried to join a New York country club. He was so lightskinned that at first they supposed he was a Caucasian. His membership was accepted. Then they found out he was black and naturally he was rejected.

To meet the challenges of the fast-moving future we must all reappraise our inventory and priorities. We must welcome all men of good intentions into our clubs, churches and public institutions so we may exchange ideas, fortify our goals and keep the concept of God alive through understanding and cooperation.

Jews and blacks, through the grapevine, have gotten the message that they are not welcome — please don't apply.

I remember the time in Baltimore when we could not swim and play tennis in Druid Hill Park or golf in Carroll Park. Everything else was restricted to black citizens. For years we paid taxes for things that were not allowed to go near. If you were in the wrong places you were trespassing and bigoted police were going to crack your head.

In time of war the local authorities wasted no time bringing eligible blacks to the battlefields but in peace time the local establishment does absolutely nothing to promote good will and pleasant relationships to all who should participate.

Baltimore has an underlying layer of hatred and white supremacy that is nearly impossible to penetrate. And most people who moved to the suburbs to escape integration at any cost joined country clubs in the belief that at last they had lily-white security that would extend to perpetuity.

My concern is not totally for the joy and comfort of minorities but for the integrity and grandness of America. When America functions decently, I thrive. When men of questionable intentions employ foul and devious measures to achieve some possible victory it's then that I weep.

Present barriers of any sort in Maryland should and must be revoked.

PAUL D. MCALLISTER

Sarbanes hit the pits

Dear AFRO:

U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes has hit the pits as far as Maryland politics is concerned.

For years the black community has been told that if competent blacks are selected, they would be considered. Not so. The same blatant racist policy still persists — You'l appoint a clean, competent young black man.

Mr. Dwight Pettit who was supposedly under consideration for the U.S. Attorney post is as suitable as any white who has had an opportunity to be nominated. His only crime was being born black. Sen. Sarbanes never gave Mr. Pettit the courtesy of an interview. The Senator was so desperate not to appoint Mr. Pettit that he denied Mr. Russell Baker a national position within the Justice Department (Mr. Baker was being considered as the head of the Department of Justice — Criminal Division). Thus far all Sen. Sarbanes appointees have been young white elitists.

The sad fact is that the Senator who was born poor, got a break in his education, yet he is the least sensitive to the overt practice of racism. Race relations in politics in Maryland is at a new low.

Mr. Pettit is doing excellently as a private attorney; he has clearly demonstrated his managerial competency as president of the Monumental Bar Association. He has helped judges of all races. There has been some indication from Sen. Sarbanes' headquarters that he feels "threatened" by Mr. Pettit — this new political phenomena. He should.

We, the supporters of Mr. Pettit, want all Maryland to know that since Mr. Pettit was not considered for the post of U.S. Attorney because of whatever specious reasons, and since Sen. Sarbanes has rejected the will of the majority, we will "elect" Mr. Pettit to a proper post at the proper time.

Ms. H. Boswell and
Ms. Eloise C. Hall,
spokespersons, Maryland Coalition of Black Women Leaders

Grass-roots support

Dear AFRO:

There was enormous grass-roots and community support for Sen. Paul Sarbanes to appoint Dwight Pettit as U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland.

This support was evidenced by the large volume of mail that was sent to Sen. Sarbanes because of a "Write-In" project sponsored by the Colored Women's Campaign Committee of Maryland.

Despite the Christmas rush, the Write-In Committee was able to encourage grass-roots and community people in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County and Harford County to send cards to Sen. Sarbanes supporting the appointment of Mr. Pettit. However, it was not successful.

On a happier note, the Democratic Women garnered a ground swell of community support for Kenneth Wilson and his successful Marina project.

The Democratic Women are thankful and appreciate the response to their appeals. The grass-roots and community people are to be congratulated for their involvement in the political process.

VICTORINE Q. ADAMS,
CHAIRWOMAN,
GLADYS P. BARBOUR,
treasurer,
Democratic Women.

AFRO's Mrs. Santa appreciated

Dear AFRO:

Just to write this letter to let Mrs. Santa know how much the coats and dolls my kids received Christmas Eve were appreciated. Not many people can say they were happier than my daughters Christmas day.

I am not a native of Baltimore and the few years I've been here I've found Baltimore to be cold-hearted and rough. And, I find it rough to try to maintain on $210 a month and finish college. Believe me, it leaves nothing for extra coats, shoes, clothes, etc.

This is the first time I've found warmth and concern and it made me feel so good inside. Sunday morning we went to church. I really want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Also, thanks for the $10 food certificates because I was out of food money, also, just again, you really made my Christmas and my year.

NAME WITHHELD

Grateful to the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

We at Memorial Apartments are most grateful for the fine coverage you gave us at the time of our art exhibit and Wee Bazaar (AFRO, Dec. 10).

We believe the picture and story published will be instrumental in encouraging other senior citizens to get involved in acuvities which will enrich their minds and offer other therapy as well as fun and formation of new friendships.

Again, thank you and the season's best wishes to you and your staff.

MERCEDES D. WILSON
Program Director, Memorial Apartments

Thank you

Dear AFRO:

Thank you, Mrs. Santa for the food that you sent us. We really appreciated it. If it wasn't for the food basket, we would have been a hungry family for Christmas.

FOPPLETON STREET

Lee, Swisher and the death penalty

Dear AFRO:

I am greatly disturbed by the recently announced position of our acting governor and the states attorney for Baltimore City on the death penalty.

Comparing them as political leaders, I am impressed that Mr. Swisher cannot hold a candle to the general astuteness and progressive bent to his. Lee. That is why it is all the more disturbing to see them as bed-fellows on this issue.

Make no mistake, I am a believer in and supporter of measures to maintain and enhance order, law and justice in our society. But reinstating the penalty of death for certain crimes — however fairly administered — in my judgment is a backward step for society.

Maryland has progressed from death by stoning, through the guillotine, through the firing squad, through the hangmen's noose and lately through the electric chair — to the point where now the lethal overdose is being tried. Implicit in all this is the recognition that to take life in any fashion under the guise of law is contrary to the precepts of legal government. We have increasingly tried to be gentle about it.

Our acting governor, with his recent appointments of Judges Harry Cole, Solomon Baylor and Archie Williams shows that he is enlightened and sensitive to reform of the justice system by meaningful inclusion of all segments of our populace. For him to espouse the death penalty, especially in the company of a reactionary district attorney, is indeed regrettable.

FRANK M. CONAWAY

Sad for animals

Dear AFRO?

Christmas is a very sad day for unwanted cats and dogs. Being neglected on other days is bad enough, but neglect is bad during Christmas, especially when everything is closed. The dog pound, the SPCA, veterinarians — all closed.

Hungry, without shelter, targets for fast-moving cars, my heart aches for them as in desperation they wonder why they are so mistreated. A look into their eyes tells their suffering — suffering caused by irresponsible people who do not care, who do not assume the responsibilities of providing even the minimum for these unfortunate animals.

It is gratifying to know that the Humane Society of Baltimore County, on Nicodemus Road, is open everyday, 24 hours a day. Mrs. Barton and her dedicated staff merit a special thanks for this alone.

B. J. SMALL

THE AFRO : the way we were, Jan. 7, 1961

Grady To Study Job Testing Policy

BLUE STREAK EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

BALTIMORE, MD., JANUARY 7, 1961 ★★★★★★★ 32 Pages 15 CENTS

Beat Ala. Student

Grady to study

INSIDE Senate sidetracks filibuster fight

3 rights bills go before legislature

Has their marriage ended?

Mrs. Mays says Willie left home with his TV, clothing

Attack comes at RR station

THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY, 1961 — A Talladega College student was beaten in an Alabama train station because he took a seat in the main waiting room as he waited for the college station wagon. Baseball star Willie Mays and his wife Marguerite separate. Willie left the house with his TV set and his clothing. The U.S. Senate stops debate on the use of the filibuster to stall voting on legislation. On inside pages, North Carolina Mutual names a new branch head.