# OPINION

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## Dr. King's birthday

Throughout the country, many schools will be closed Jan. 15, to mark the 50th birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

We wish it could be more than a "holiday." Most of all, we wish that, instead of having the day off, our children, especially black children, could be sold on why the day should be dedicated to an intensive workout on the three Rs.

Children who are several grades behind in reading and arithmetic can use every extra day possible for delving into these subjects.

No disrespect intended here for the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. and, certainly an hour on his birthday could be devoted to tribute. Such tributes might include assignments in English — from composition to oratory — including the reading of Dr. King's own writings and the writings about him.

Just an analysis of his "I Have a Dream" could cover every English need.

We believe Dr. King would approve this suggestion, if not for this year, then for future years. We must find ways to keep our children in school, with teachers — both learning and teaching. We must improve the scholastic level of our children.

If the symbolism of a Martin Luther King holiday outweighs our proposal, then parents should observe the birthday by having their children read and discuss "I Have a Dream," the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and other writings by Dr. King — brother, clergyman, leader, lover of peace, freedom rider, dreamer, martyr.

## The Attorney General

The state's newly elected top legal officer Steven H. Sachs has a tremendous opportunity to enhance the tarnished prestige of the Attorney General's office as he takes command by moving quickly to increase the number of minority group lawyers on his staff.

There are presently five black assistant attorney - generals, an all-time record total, but this is still a minuscule portion when it is understood that the other 165 lawyers on the staff Sachs inherits are white.

Campaigning for the office Attorney General Sachs assured voters he would move to correct this institutional racism.

Now that he has the job we fervently hope he will act with all due haste to increase minority staff. It is crucial to the balancee ends of justice that there be a significant increase in the number of black lawyers who will have a say in the legal affairs of the state of Maryland through their work in this extremely important office.

## Protect the innocent

This happens so many times.

A young woman broke off her friendship with a man. Physical violence accompanied this rejection.

Continuing harassment followed. Court hearings. A disappearing defendant. Release from custody.

Shortly afterward the man was charged with her death.

There is really nothing the police or the courts can do about such explosive situations.

Many families have endured the agony of having to live such terror.

We do not know the circumstances surrounding this latest incident but certainly some kind of warning system or protection can be devised to protect the vulnerable. Especially once such emotional warfare reaches our courts.

The legal catch is no one can be arrested for something he or she might do. Arrest and apprehension comes only after or during or upon proven conspiracy commission of a crime . . . and this is always too late.

## On Marvin Mandel

On the eve of Harry Hughes inauguration as governor here comes Marvin Mandel again.

His conviction has been overturned. He has been vindicated more or less.

At AFRO prestime we have not sorted out all the legalities surrounding the former governor's rights as a result of the court's decision.

We will note, however, that Harry Hughes landslide 'come from nowhere' victory in the last election was notice served on politicans that voters wanted no return to the Mandel era, neither his positives or his negatives.

Whatever, we look at this mandate for Hughes and strongly hope Mandel will savor this latest tip of the scale of justice in his favor and with his honor thus restored, takes no further part in the political affairs of this state.

Mandel accomplished much. Now we must see what Harry Hughes can do.

## Law and political clout

From all parts of the country come complaints that blacks are not getting a fair share of tax dollars and other perquisites expended on building schools and other public buildings, in awarding contracts, and in furnishing employment.

In some places, contractors and other small businessmen have sued, under one or more civil rights laws.

Most recently, in Baltimore, several black leaders have been contending before the city fathers that the rights of minorities are not protected in a contract permitting the building of a prestigious "Market Place" on the city - owned waterfront.

The developer, Mr. James Rouse, a man of high repute, has given his "word" that 25 percent of the multi - stores project and the jobs building the structure will go to minorities (meaning blacks).

But, it is Mr. Rouse's word alone That verbal stipulation is not in the contract, it is not legally binding.

The latest experience should remind AFRO readers that civil rights laws are not enough in winning and holding civil rights gains. Protestations at public hearings are not enough.

These must be under girded by political clout: Money invested in business enterprise and also the support of politics and and of decision makers, and clout in effective political organization.

Even the counting of heads is not enough, however. It is what is done with heads (the voting public) that counts in influencing politicians.

Somehow, minority contenders, especially blacks, must learn how to raise the fund needed to make prossible the organization that is even more needed.

If the Rev. Jim Jones (of Guyana infamy) would raise millions (nearly $10 millions) for the wrong reasons, those who are fighting for equal rights and equal opportunities should be able to raise the needed monies for the right reasons.

It is still true that money talks; money can even scale mountains. "We shall overcome" must become more than a song or a hymn.

## Our growing strength

Slowly but surely black representation in the Maryland legislature is increasing. Last year there were 19 lawmakers from our community now there are 20.

This is a good sign, yet we must strive to achieve black representation in all districts at all levels of government.

We congradulate the new caucus leadership - Sen. Robert Douglass, Del. Troy Brailey and Howard "Pete" Rawlings and Sen. Tommie Broadwater — and support them and the their caucus members in their fight in attempting to provide better way of life for black residents.

We will watch them for the next 88 days and hope they will continue growing in unified strength, a strength that had been established last year under the late Arthur Murphy.

Perhaps with new leadership in both the legislature and the governor's office the black caucus will even more rapidly emerge as a force to be reckoned with an instument for proaitive change.

*In memory of a great man*

# A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

## Making resolutions

By Madeline Murphy

Mrs. Murphy is a commentator on "Impact News" on WEAA - FM radio, Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

A few weeks back, I wrote a column on making lists. At that time, we had the arduous tasks of making menu lists, gift lists, Christmas card lists, all of which were nagging things we felt we had to do. After all, wasn't everybody doing it?

Some of us, I'm sure, were hooked into having the family Christmas dinner. On looking back, it wasn't such a bad idea, because we did get together after all the work; had fun and renewed old bonds.

But the underlying theme of that column was that we ought to be about making lists that tell us more about ourselves.

What is it we have to be about these "musterbations" — things we have to do out of guilt or tradition? What are the things we would like to do, that are neither of the above? And how do we make the transition? The simplest, most direct answer to that is simply to do it.

Or not do it as the case may be. Run to our beds, cover our heads with a blanket and wait for the furor to die down. But mostly take control of our lives.

And so it is with all the exhortations that I've made in my columns for the past year, and what I have said on these commentaries over the last 12 weeks.

That taking control of our lives means to come down from the bleachers watching the action, and run out on the field, become part of that brutalizing game of life.

And we start by making resolutions. And one of the major resolutions for all black people this year should be to become attached politically to some one of our pet peeves that deal with government and how it affects our pocketbooks, our lives, our ultimate safety.

So let's start with our greatest concerns on one side of the page of resolutions and then list our minor concerns on the other.

It is great to list some personal things that we always pledge to do, like not smoking, losing weight, getting more exercise, but none of these will matter if we don't also tackle the major inter - related problems that have a lot to do with our survival.

What about working all out for peace this year?

With the military capabilities of this country, hadn't we better ask ourselves whether we need an increase of $15 billion in our defense budget?

Couldn't this amount solve the majority of our social problems through programs already slated for the late 1970s?

What about the Inner Harbor and its possibilities to provide jobs for blacks, considering the dismal record Faneuil Hall has had in Boston — one of Rouse's pet restoration programs — only one black push cart peddler. Now, maybe none!

If you read the headlines, listen to the news, there will be many more areas, like prison reform, taxes, $1 houses, late more to list, that are manageable for you to organize your community around.

This, the New Year, so bright, promising young is the right time, the opportune moment to begin to struggle against the tyranny of government, against the corrupting influences of the powerful, like the Carters, Schaefers, and Rouses.

But don't be like the old drunk in my grandfather's church, who after hearing a fire and brimstone sermon on the evils of liquor — "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever imbibeth thereof is not wise" — ambled out of the church, the last to leave and said: "You know, Rev., that was one hell of a sermon" . . . he hiccupped . . . and grandpa with hope in his heart, had it quickly dashed when the old drunk continued: "But ya know one thing, it ne'er teched me (hic) . . . ne'er teched me"!

Come on now, make some resolutions this year, and stick to them.

Let the problems "tech" you.

# LETTERS

## Readers thank AFRO's Mrs. Santa

### 'Deeply grateful'

Dear AFRO:

We are deeply grateful to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa for the generous contributions to the residents of Lexington Terrace and Edgar Allan Poe Homes during the Christmas season.

It was heartwarming to witness the happiness and joy displayed by the recipients as your kindness was distributed.

Everyone requested that we write to you expressing their profound pleasure in being remembered so generously.

We wish you even greater success in your future endeavors toward spreading goodwill to those of great need throughout the year.

ELAINE L. HOWARD,
Housing Manager, Lexington-Poe Homes

### 'Wonderful'

Dear AFRO:

The kids and I appreciate the food certificates you sent us. We had a wonderful Christmas. Maybe next year we will be able to do something for someone.

GTR

### 'Appreciated'

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for sending our family a Christmas basket. We deeply appreciated it and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

May God truly bless each and everone of you.

RJS

### 'Thank you'

Dear AFRO:

My family and I thank you for the help we got at Christmas.

The Brown Family

### 'Generosity'

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of all the women here at Women's Detention Center (WDC), it gives me great pleasure to write this letter to thank Mrs. Santa for her thoughtfulness and generosity for the donations for our children.

Had it not been for you, our children would not have received gifts from their mothers.

Thanks to you and your helper's, we had a very successful Christmas party for our children. They were overjoyed with the gifts.

Thanks to you for making this a happy Christmas for our children and making all of us happy at the same time.

We would also like to take the time out to salute you as a black woman. We are proud of you in your many efforts to help others like ourselves.

It is always a beautiful feeling to know that there are black people out there struggling to help each other. Because you are a black woman, it makes it twice as nice.

We wish you further success in whatever tasks you may encounter. Thanks once again.

We wish you a health and successful New Year.

LORRAINE LYLES, President of
Resident Council W.D.C.,
Baltimore City Jail

## Put an immediate halt to rumors

Dear AFRO:

There is talk around this town about a malicious rumor. Rumors, my black sisters and brothers are: general talk not based on definite knowledge; mere gossip, hearsay; an unconfirmed report, story or state in general circulation.

Yet, there are those who have the audacity to call themselves "Christians" who have added fuel to a fire that probably should never have been started in the beginning.

Who am I to judge and who are we to judge our fellow woman and man? There are those among us who have been purported to believe in the "good book" who believe that there is but one who judges us all.

While I will not discuss my view on whether I believe in that concept or not I will say that I feel that I am no better a man than the next to place myself on a pedestal and be a judge of womankind and mankind.

I felt there was a necessity for me to speak out in this matter, because I contend that much harm has been done and could continue to be done if we do not put an immediate halt to it. The rumor that is:

We as a people, a black people, should be the first to realize an injustice when we see it.

We have been and are presently an exploited, degraded, subjugated, defamed and discriminated upon people. No woman or man is an island as it has been said.

I need you, my black people, as you need me, as we still need each other to exist in this world of so many ills. Let us put an immediate end to any and all injustices relating to our people.

The struggle continues, so be concerned, get involved and stay committed to freedom, justice, life, equality and the pursuit of happiness.

MARVIN L. CHEATHAM SR.

## One of this city's finest

Dear AFRO:

I was truly overjoyed being a finalist in the "Baltimore's Best" spectacular at the Peabody Conservatory recently.

Three cheers for Mrs. Floraine Appleleth who dreamed this beautiful event without pay, and the novel scriptive genius of Mrs. Sharon Smith.

Mrs. Smith's description of Mrs. Ann Saslav and myself as Baltimore's Best couple with "Musical Minds" of the group was music to my ears.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer as usual was the star of the show, with his comment that even if the Inner Harbor is promoted with "I Love Baltimore," we will still be known as "Baltimore's Best."

I hope that my inner city brothers will instill upon their loved ones to forget the site of their bush, but rather to put brains under the buss.

That no matter if they are a cab driver as myself, or a street cleaner, be good at what you do and excel, taking pride in yourself, perhaps one day your city will be proud of you.

That is what I hope the true essence and reality of the beautiful "Baltimore's Best" contest is all about.

JOHNT. BAILEY

## AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

WASHINGTON REPORT:

PARREN J. MITCHELL

## Those who know what is best for us

Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In recent weeks, on two occasions, a panel of media persons has taken me to task for the position I have taken on the Maryland Lottery system and for my stance against the use of South African steel in the construction of the Baltimore subway system.

This panel of reporters is made up of white males save for one exception.

The reporters almost became vitriolic in their comments on my statement that the Maryland Lottery is a rip - off of black people.

"There is a certain element who will always gamble away their money," said one.

"Those people are the same ones who kept the illegal lottery going," added another, "And besides, the Maryland Lottery is nothing more than an outgrowth of the illegal lottery."

One other expert on human behavior chimed in saying, "Well, they don't have to play, no one forces them to play, and no one should try to stop them from playing."

All of my adult life my ears have been 'burned by the "wise considerate, expert advice" on black people and black communities given by whites. We have had to listen to those who know what is best for us and what is best for our community.

That notion of attempting to get on the air to answer those gentlemen, but let us try at least to lay logic on their illogical comments.

"A certain element that will always gamble!" Perhaps yes. However, drug abuse has been a part of the American history for at least a century and a half. Do we want to outlaw drugs because there are drug abusers?

"They kept the illegal lottery going." Perhaps yes. Many people played the illegal lottery, but many more did not because it was illegal, and they feared arrest, detention and sentencing.

Now many people who would not touch the numbers game, eagerly play to win, encouraged by the state and the media.

It is a rip - off of the black community. The average machine in the black neighborhoods of Baltimore takes in about $25,000 a week.

"They don't have to play." Perhaps not. Yet, analyses reveal that the state's gambling machines are saturated in the black communities of Maryland, just as our communities are saturated with liquor outlets, just as our communities were saturated with drugs by the international dealers in drugs.

Gentlemen, thanks but no thanks for your advice on that subject.

This same erudite panel of experts excoriated me because I condemned the use of South African steel in our subway system. Their statements reminded me of the statements made by some of our white friends as we pushed for civil rights in the 1950's and 1960's.

"Don't push too hard, consider the negative economic implications of your push for civil rights, and all that you will do is to alienate your friends."

There is no basis on which one can justify the use of South African steel in the subway system. Those experts argued that to use other steel might increase the cost of building the subway.

I am prepared now to say that ultimately the cost over - runs in construction of the subway system will be substantial.

To abandon the use of South African steel may mean a loss of jobs," was another argument. Come off it, that is just a lot of bull!

One savant stated, "These liberals just don't understand the advances that South Africa has made in race relations." I think that statement should be made to the widow and family members of Steve Biko, who was murdered by the South African government.

That statement should be made to the thousands of blacks imprisoned by the racist South African government. That statement should be made to the thousands of blacks who are underpaid and exploited mercilessly by the Botha - Voerster government.

Gentlemen, once again thanks but no thanks for your advice on South African steel. It may well be that you think you know what is best for us, but please remember there were those who fought to save slavery in America, and many of them thought slavery was best for black people.

## Praise for Youtheatre

Dear AFRO:

I recently enjoyed an evening of theater at the Arena Players Inc. The Youtheatre of the Arena Players under the direction of Michael Deboy presented "It's Simply Love."

Our young people are performing and participating in a positive manner.

Congratulations for a job well done Youtheatre and staff of the Arena Players Inc.

LEONARD L. SAUNDERS



# CURRENT COMMENT



G. JAMES FLEMING

## NOW AND THEN

### The individual still counts

By G. James Fleming

All statistics are based on mass measurements. The U.S. Census, the Urban League, the Gallup Poll and such organizations measure the American people by the hundreds and thousands. The computer refines all these measurements.

We cannot ignore the statistics. We know, for instance, that blacks, as a whole, are many percentage points behind white people, as a whole, in the pay they receive, the level of positions they fill, their opportunity for promotion, and in their overall actual employment.

We know also that, by and large, blacks suffer a higher incidence of most diseases, and that they achieve lower ratings than whites in national scholastic examinations.

None of these statistics mean, however, that every black is behind every white, or that no blacks will be found in the 90th to 100th percentile of achievement in any area, all other things being equal.

Other things such as past educational opportunity, non - discriminatory employment and promotion, opportunity to live in a multi - faceted healthy environment, and the like.

From another view, and most important, it must be emphasized that racial statistics, as dreary as they may appear, do not excuse individual blacks from using such talents as they have to their utmost.

Individual blacks, and individuals united, must challenge the system which would keep them down, must learn new skills, or must even apply their education to new callings.

If industry, by and large, is closed to them, they must find ways to make such monies as they can amass, make employment for themselves and others; if public schools are poor, they must make family and neighborhood arrangements to improve the educational levels of their children; if blacks are being by - passed politically, individual blacks must be forced to register and vote, and on and on.

The individual counts. Great inventions, great writings, great music, great ideas do not come from mass meetings. They usually come from a single (often solitary) man or woman, working endlessly in laboratory, at desk or in library.

Nations that have been considered developed and great won such distinction because they produced and nurtured, and promoted, their potentially great and their great individuals.

Strong families are strong because individual men and women commit themselves and behave in such a manner as to develop strong resourceful families.

Good universities result when people of experience and training dedicate themselves vigorously to learning and teaching.

The statistics on black gains and non - gains cannot and must not be ignored, but they must not be used by the individual as an excuse for his not picking up himself and applying the talents he has Matthew 25:14 to a world that can still use his brains and much of his brawn.

Neither must statistics excuse blacks who have fared well — better education, better jobs, better family background — from investing, courageously, creatively and sacrificially, in enterprises for the betterment of their people.

We are not naive. We know that there are many things that the individual cannot do for himself at all, and there are still others which he cannot do where he is located.

We know, also, that countless individuals are bound to be displaced (unemployed) as the nation and the world becomes ever more technological.

Even so, the individual must strive to find ways to "beat the system."

## —MORE LETTERS—

### Responding to letters from 2 AFRO readers

Dear AFRO:

On Jan. 6, two arbitrary letters appeared in the AFRO. Please permit me to comment on both.

In his letter, B. J. Small blows hard for a "civil war" against unions in nursing homes and hospitals. "An all attack on "the inefficiencies. aged."

He couples this with an all - out attack on "the inefficiencies, laziness, goofing - off . . ." of union members.

Your prejudice against unions and the organized labor has evidently tilted your brain, Mr. Small. Get your head back on and try again.

The monstrous and unconscionable, the greedy and profiteering owners of those "jungles" who lounge back in their "Ivory Towers," counting their filthy lucre millions and millions (and I mean millions!) of times over again, have never cared one lota for those hopeless and helpless, so long as they could acquire the cheapest help obtainable, while exploiting every fiber of those they employed.

"Enemies", Mr. Small? You conveniently ignored the oppressors.

Not until workers organized and gained some semblance of dignity, did those horrible creature owners sit up and take more notice. And not until the federal government began utilizing some (too little) of its clout, did some alterations (again, too little) come about.

Admittedly, there is much more to be accomplished and, hopefully a reasonable success will ultimately be realized.

Employment in a nursing home is a difficult, thankless and trying challenge, at best. Those employed (although serving human beings) are not unlike those on assembly lines, municipal workers, etc., and there will, unfortunately always be some who dutifully carry a heavier load to compensate for the less devoted.

At worst, nursing home care is about as hopeless as its inhabitants. There is a reason for this dilemma.

Enemy Number 2, and perhaps even more treacherous than the owners, are the cold and calculating children who "unload" their "in the way" parents and grandparents.

And once unloaded, don't give a damn whether they die the day they are admitted, or at least before the next monthly payment is due.

I have known such inhuman characters (one recently) and have created enemies through candid expression.

If, "unfortunately," the relative survives, a visit once a year, on a convenient holiday seems to be the national routine.

And if the stench and environment are intolerable, what's the difference, those common runts will soon be back to their comfortable homes or in some beer - swilling night club.

Imagine, Mr. Small, if children visited those "jungles" regularly and complained to the Health Department and the prosecutor, each time they found unsanitary conditions. If they demanded nutritious food, better medical care and better care generally, would those horrendous conditions persist?

The personnel is glaringly aware that those who dumped their relatives are totally unconcerned about them, and though it is not a justification, those people act accordingly. Remember, they are total strangers.

Stop passing the buck, Mr. Small, senile arguments do not facts produce.

On the op - ed page, Paul Chiera strives mightily to convince the enlightened AFRO readers, that because we are a member of the United Nations, an "American soldier today can't defend his own country" and also that "the U.N. is a war - making body controlled by the Communists."

How asinine! How ignorant! How unhistorical!

In fact, I thought I was reading an article in a "How crazy can you get" department.

I am prepared to write volumes on this subject, but I am aware that space is limited.

Since the inception of the U.N., we have fought several wars. In those wars we claimed to be defending our shores, at times, 10,000 miles distant.

I ask Mr. Chiera:

Did we defend the Communists in Korea? And is not South Korea today one of our most obedient client nations?

Did we defend Hanoi in Vietnam? And have we not continually resisted Hanoi's appeal for a friendlier relationship?

When the democratically elected Socialist and Communists governments of Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Chile and other nations were overthrown with our participation, did we not replace them with Fascist (anti - Communist) dictatorships?

Where was and, where is that powerful "Communist controlled" United Nations?

How much influence have the Communists wielded in the U.N. in their undeviating efforts to economically and militarily eradicate apartheid and minority rule in South Africa and Zimbabwe?

The controlling, the dominating forces are the United State, England, West Germany, France and their eager and willing allies.

The letters U.N. inform me that you Urgently Need a slew of lessons in American history.

LEONARD PEACE RIED

### Tribute to Martin Luther King

## He lived, loved, laughed and left

Dear AFRO:

On April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. left this world, which he had helped to shape, for another world. He left this world a great lesson — a lesson in love.

Dr. King lived a full life. He lived to learn. He lived for the people of God. He lived to see that walls of segregation were broken down.

He lived to see that the underpaid were paid a decent salary. He lived to feed the spiritually hungry the Bread of Life. He lived for Christ.

Martin Luther King Jr. loved. He loved his mother-dear, Mama Jennie, his father, sister and brother. He loved his little white friends on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta.

He loved the people of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and the people of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Alabama.

He loved the poor, the downtrodden, the hopeless, the rich, the dignitaries and the elites. He loved his beautiful wife, Coretta, his four beautiful children and his God.

M. L. (as Martin Luther was sometimes called) laughed. He laughed as he played with his little white friends in Atlanta. He laughed as he played with his sister and brother.

M.L. laughed when he and his family enjoyed "fun times." M. L. laughed with Coretta Scott his fiancee and later wife. M. L. laughed as he played and romped with his four lovely children.

M.L. laughed as he autographed copies of his book for friends and well-wishers.

Dr. King left to this world a courageous wife and four beautiful children to carry on the work he began. M.L. left us a finer world and his footprints in the sand of time.

M.L. left us a promise: "We Shall Overcome Some Day."

Yes, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the humble minister from Atlanta lived and loved and laughed and left.

MADELINE MILLER

## Timid winter drivers

Dear AFRO:

The way people in this town drive in "snow" must be amusing if it weren't so infuriating.

I'm from New York and if you call those flurries we had last weekend "snow," then Nixon is not a crook.

Folks up North would crack up if they could see the timid drivers here. People going 20 miles per hour and stepping on the brakes for no reason, which is not such a good idea because it causes skids, and the car behind you could be in your trunk.

I'm not saying people should drive 55 miles per hour or that they should not exercise caution. But don't be ridiculous. Driving like a snail and being super-cautious can also cause problems.

If folks get that nervous about a non-snow and driving, then stay home. And leave the roads to people who know how to drive in winter weather.

MARY TAYLOR

## April 4, 1968--saddest day

Dear AFRO:

Dr. Martin Luther King graduated from Morehouse College where he received his college degree.

In 1964, Dr. King was the third black of 12 Americans to win the Noble Peace Prize. He did not consider the prize a honor personally but a tribute for discipline of blacks and whites who followed a reign of justice.

King's life was to live non - violent. He knew he had to fight mentally as well as physically to overcome the evils of justice in this society.

No person in the entire history of America made as great an impact on the nation as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955. He led one non-violent assault.

He believed also that there could be no justice in our society, unless there was peace in our society.

Montgomery bus boycott in 1955. He led one non - violent assault.

After another on segregation, Dr. King did not want blacks to be ashamed of the fact that they are the grandchildren of slaves. He stated that there is dishonor only in being a slave owner.

April 4, 1968 was the day that he was assassinated. That's the saddest day in black history.

DWIGHT WOODS

## Jagger's song

Dear AFRO:

I learned that musician Mick Jagger has a song out that is very radical and down - grading to black women.

Is that the kind of music we want our children or any children listening to? Is there any way this kind of music can be stopped?

Everyone knows if that type of statement was made about a white woman it would not have been recorded.

BETTY HARCUM

## FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

BACK FROM VACATION I find a post card from Olugbala who was in China in November and December and then went on to Ethiopia and mailed the photo card from Tanzania the week of the Independence celebration there. He says lots of things are going on and he will tell us when he get back.

BACK HOME is Rev. Edna Isaacs with lots of news to tell about her visit to Liberia and delivering the gifts from Mayor Schaefer in her capacity as Ambassador of Good Will. She said the presentation was on TV all day.

A LETTER which made me most happy was from Mrs. Carrie Dorsey Jackson, 3310 Liberty Heights Ave., whose mother, Sadie Murray Dorsey, was a great friend of my mother, Rose Murphy Oliver before she married my father, Dr. Jacob B. Oliver and went to live in Brazil, Ind.

Mrs. Jackson says her Murray family has a generation to match our every generation. She taught Vashti, Carlita and Frances Murphy and was a friend of Miss Frances Murphy and Dr. Carl Murphy.

I hope we meet some day. Memories are the connections with the past which should be continued. I was sooo happy to receive the letter. I have photos of my mother from her school days. I expect Mrs. Jackson can help me identify some of those persons who were classmates.

BEAUTIFUL is the New Years greetings from Mayor Frank Fasi and his family of Honolulu. He has eight children, four boys and four girls. My daughter's cards are in white on white with deep depressions, really gorgeous and one-of-a kind.

PRIZE PHOTO is the one from Baltimore Contractor's Victor Frenkil which shows him and me with the handcarved eagle gift from Odessa, Russia. He has an album coming with photos of his family's New Years Eve party at the Golden Sands. Present were his sister and brother, the most handsome persons, who had scores of friends in. The photos are a special gift for Victor and Mrs. Frenkil.

COACH EARL BANKS, athletic director of Morgan State University was named to chair the Urban Services Agency Project Survival Blue Ribbon Committee at a recent meeting held in the board room of the AFRO AMERICAN Newspapers.

This committee consists of a group of prominent citizens who are planning a testimonial for the renown AFRO sports editor, Sam Lacy in conjunction with Project Survival's celebration of its 10th anniversary.

A SPECIAL invitation I would like to accept is the one from the Provident Hospital Board of Trustees for the Annual Dinner Meeting, Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.

CURTIS WRENN, the former administrator at University Hospital is now head of a predominately white hospital in Anoka, Minn. where the snow is piled up high as the sky. He has an offer to go to Howard University's hospital and may take it. He's the No. 1 man as far as qualifications are concerned. Very few persons have high degrees in hospital administration.

GLASCO CATLIN, as I told you before, has scores of teachers going on the most delightful trip, Jan. 29 they will journey to Bronx, N.Y. for a grand visit with Dr. Roland N. Patterson. "For All We Know" will be with them to write about it and take every step in photos, a really interesting thing.

COME ON TEACHERS, let's make this one of the best yet, one you can save for your own life's history and then show it to your classes. Imagine, seeing with your own eyes the inside of a school system like the Bronx, N.Y.

JOHN T. BAILEY, the cabbie who received the Baltimore's Best Award last week writes to me to reveal the AFRO has his photo on file, the one at his 25th wedding anniversary.

The legend described him as the former advertising man who sings his original songs to his fare, gives tours and has written a book about his adventures in his taxi "Mind Over Meter." He also has a parking invention on the market.

MARY A. GREEN who ran on the Rev. Wendell Phillips ballot as a state central committee member candidate has a beautiful handwriting. She is among many, many persons who sent me cards and greetings.

KAY CARTER, vice-chairman of the Maryland Commission for Women, is travelling about for some super occasions and she writes me from Richmond, Va., where she attended a convention.

She informs us the vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit, must be filled by President Carter and the nominations by citizens must be in to the Judge Nominating Committee by March 28. Write your nomination to Wesley M. Walker, chairman, P.O. Box 2248, 217 E. Coffee St., Greenville, S.C., 29602.

CONG. PARREN J. MITCHELL has sent a strong letter to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams about that slave steel from South Africa being used in the Baltimore subway System. The $65 million federal funds which includes your taxpayers dough, may not be granted to the Metropolitan Transit System because of this grave transgression of federal and human law.

I WONDER how the Transit Authority here thought they could get away with that disgraceful act, buying steel mined by slave labor. Citizens are really mad about it.

MY MEN OF MARYLAND list has been beneficial to many of those named at the close of 1978. Some of them have great honors coming from other sources and institutions.

REV. A. C. VAUGHN'S son Corrigan, was highly praised by his classmates. He's just a kid but he says he will keep the honor as his first in life.

THE TEEN CONNECTION instituted by our Men of Maryland's Dr. Harvey Webb of Constraint Care is one of the most valuable programs for adolescents in the world. And it's working. Have your teenager investigate it and join.

PERSONALIZED HEALTH CARE is the thrust of it, but mainly, the utterly fantastic program is arranged so that they learn and revises the young peoples' lives. We will do more in photo and story soon, but meantime, You Parents, you'll be doing your kids a real favor if you enroll them now. You'll be glad.

THE TEEN CONNECTION news letter is the most informative newspaper. Included in the December issue are notes on myths about Christmas and New Years Eve, holiday food and drink, you can hold on to until next year. Also, bad and good gifts, good low-calorie food, quotations for guidance in life. Ohhhhhh. That's good reading.

## MONEY MATTERS

### On the matter of Medicare

This is from the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants.

If the New Year will bring your sixty-fifth birthday, and if you are anxious to become qualified to receive Medicare benefits as quickly as possible, pay heed to these suggestions from the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Medicare coverage is not extended automatically, the Maryland CPAs emphasize. You must register for it at a Social Security office. To avoid confusion or delay in obtaining Medicare benefits, plan to sign up at least three months prior to your sixty-fifth birthday.

Once your Medicare registration has been completely processed, you will automatically receive hospital coverage. (This coverage is commonly called "Part A.")

But, say the Maryland CPAs, medical age — "Part B," which helps pay doctors' bills — is optional.

Part A coverage, they explain, is funded through the Social Security withholding tax. If you opt for Part B, however, you will be required to pay a monthly premium of $8.20. You will not, of course, have to bother about writing checks; the premium will simply be withheld from your monthly Social Security checks.

The Maryland CPA Association cautions older citizens who have (or who are contemplating) the purchase of private health insurance policies to make sure they will not be paying for overlapping, essentially useless, coverage.

There are, they point out, useful Medicare supplementary policies which usually cover the Medicare deductibles. For this limited protection, the CPAs say, the cost is relatively little.

Medicare's hospital deductible have been increased for 1979, the Maryland Certified Public Accountant Association reports.

More bluntly stated, that means the patient himself must pay a larger amount toward his hospital care.

For up to the first 60 days of a hospital stay, according to the CPAs, the patient will have to pay the first $160 of expenses, up from $144 in 1978.

For the sixty-first through the ninetieth day, the patient's share will be $40 a day, a per diem increase of $4.

Medicare hospital patients should also keep in mind that a new "benefit period" does not begin until a patient has been out of the hospital for 60 days. If you are admitted to a hospital before a new benefit period begins, the Maryland CPA Association explains, the coverage for which you are eligible is reduced according to the length of your previous hospital stay.

When hospitalized as a Medicare patient, the CPAs add, try to be prepared to leave the hospital no later than the date your doctor says you may leave. (A social worker often is on the hospital staff to assist you in this matter).

To help keep costs down, the CPA Association explains, Medicare authorities have become strict about paying benefits for what they consider "custodial care."

Thus, leaving the hospital as soon as you are medically able to do so will avoid problems concerning Medicare-covered hospital charges.

## Oregon rape case: a farce

Dear AFRO:

That woman in Oregon who charged her husband with rape put women back a zillion years.

I do not know what her motivation was, but not only did he claim her husband forced her to have sex, after he is acquitted, all of a sudden they're all lovey - dovey again! As if nothing had happened.

It is no secret that rape is a horrible crime. A woman's body and mental state are both defiled.

But the worst part is the trial, if the woman has the courage to testify, when a victim's past sexual history is aired like so much laundry.

Normal, healthy woman are made to look like lustful seductresses and only a candidate for sainthood who has never had an impure though can stand up under grilling by the suspect's attorney.

And now that the woman in Oregon has created such an uproar, all rape victims and their motivitions to press charges are going to be doubly suspect.

I do not think husbands have the right to force their wives to submit. But neither do I think wives should have the power to press rape charges against their husbands.

The alternative is to divorce a husband who would force sex on his wife against her will.

I am sure there are legitimate cases of rape committed by husbands on their spouses.

It is unfortunate that the court test case had to turn into such a farce.

BETTY CARLTON

## 'America, a religious enigma'.

Dear AFRO:

America claims to be against communism because communists are supposed to be against Christianity. Yet, when I look at America I find no Christianity. I find no freedom of prayer in schools and other public places, I find no freedom to display "nativity" scenes in most public and government areas, I find among many who call themselves Christians no real belief in the existence of hell or in punishment for sins.

On the other hand, I find in America a freedom of sexual perversion and permissiveness, I find a freedom of the strong to exploit the weak, I find a freedom of racism, hate, and oppression (as exemplified by the KKK and the American Nazi Party). I find among the ungodley a freedom to deny the godly their freedom to practice their faith undisturbed (as exemplified by the "Freedom From Religion Foundation").

So, it is no accident that the word, "Christ," in "Christmas" has been X'ed out, altering the word to now read, "Xmas." And so, the only semblance of Christianity which Americans oftentimes use as a proof of their religious freedom is their freedom to attend church. But this meager defense is meaningless also; for even communists attend church.

Religion, therefore, is not the true basis for America's displeasure with communism; and neither the slogan which adorns America's dollars, "In God We Trust," nor the one which adorns its pledge of allegiance, "one nation, under God. . ." means that the United States is a Christian culture.

America's gods, therfore, can only be its money and itself - a diabolic religion; and it despises communism only because it fears the loss of those two gods.

F. GREGORY

## Appreciation for assistance

Dear AFRO:

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the many persons and organizations that were so kind in rendering aid to me and my family, on Dec. 27, we were one of the 13 families left homeless by fire, left with only what we were wearing.

First giving honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who makes all things possible.

Others as follows:

The American Red Cross;
St. Vincent DePaul;
WEBB Radio Station;
The Arlington Lions Club;
The Tri State Elk Association of Delaware, and
AFSCME Local No. 44

The entire Baltimore City Health Department, my place of employment. Don't know all by name, but thanks to everyone for what you did. May God bless you.

DELORIS L. BROCKINGTON