Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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1981

In recent comment in this space we have sought to define what this first year of a new decade has meant to our community.

No clear cut answers came except for the most obvious one: that most blacks and most whites are in a period of grave economic depression.

We do not want to dwell on that excessively but it is the overriding condition in our community and to lesser degree in the majority community as well.

As 1981 begins, we recommend that all of us be very watchful of developments just over the horizon.

We must be alert to certain actions of the Reagan administration.

It is our sense that the new White House just might try and deliver on its promise of increased entrepreneurial programs in our major cities.

In a business-minded government, and the Reagan regime is certainly that, it would be entirely rational that businessmen, be they black or whatever, be encouraged under certain free market guidelines to take bigger steps.

More goods, more services, more employment goes this theory.

We already hear the ominous sounds from the incoming Reaganites about cutting back on food stamps and other welfare assistance programs for the poor and aging.

It is a cornerstone of conservatism that all who are able-bodied should work and that the "State" with a big "S" only do what people cannot do for themselves.

Inner-city revitalization, diligently pursued, could be a tremendous aspiration for the Republicans, but if they mistake priming the pumps of a few black entrepreneurs for a major step toward increasing the money flow in black urban areas, theirs will be a rude awakening.

Another early gauge of what we can reasonably expect, for better or worse, in addition to the more entrepreneurs, less human resources, will be the increasing turn away from the volunteer Army program in effect since the debacle in Vietnam.

Draft registration has reared its menacing head again and the ruling structure knows that military service by conscription, along with prison, has been a traditional social control mechanism to neutralize restless young blacks and take them off the job market. (There being no jobs to begin with.)

We must watch for any precipitous call to arms.

A diminishing of human resources assistance, an escalation of militarism (of which the forced service tour is but tip of the iceberg), along with an increased reliance on business to solve socioeconomic problems, if initiated early on by the new president and his men will mean we are indeed in for worse times.

These are some of the basic national issues which will soon emerge.

Locally, we have much to observe, participate in and get mad or glad about in this new year.

Politically, up at bat in just a few days is the General Assembly.

All of our black elected officials will be returning.

Just how the Black Caucus will do under the leadership of Frank Conaway is at this point, anyone's guess. Delegate Conaway is certainly a hard worker and wants the caucus to be as powerful as it can be.

Thus far, he has been content to let Assembly officials who have some expertness in specific areas assume leadership in these areas. Thus, Delegate Rawlings is principal spokesman on educational issues, Delegate Douglass addresses budget matters, and so on.

Delegate Brailey, whom we hope is speedily recovering from his recent illness, continues his disassociation with the caucus.

While we are not ready to lament Brailey's defection as an act depriving the caucus of what might be the last of its "moral" politicians (not that anyone else is less moral), we do sense that the caucus has no one who presently remains as close to his or her real constituency as does Delegate Brailey.

We are hopeful one or more of our elected officials picks up Brailey's excellent past performance as "caucus conscience."

In any event, our elected officials have some serious work ahead of them:

In no special order, these tasks include:

1) A larger budget for Morgan State University so that it can effectively carry out its mandate as an urban seat of higher learning.

2) Strategies and actions to head off what seems an increasing conservatism on the part of the Hughes administration regarding human resources allocations.

3) Redirection of state monies that help stimulate Maryland's black communities economically and environmentally.

4) Dramatic increases in state employment of blacks, women and other minorities beyond the present woeful proportions.

This, admittedly, is a tall order but our caucus, which increasingly shows its political acumen, can persevere and win.

On another front, the issue of teacher competency is heating up.

State Education czar David Hornbeck has hurled the gauntlet and pro and anti for teachers' forces are marshalling their tax strength.

Increased hiring of minority and public safety officers, as well as law enforcement officers, in large part due to the successful fight waged by the Vanguard and Vulcan Blazers organizations and to the efforts of Commissioner Pomerleau, will be less of an issue in 1981, but with increased numbers of black and women police and fire workers, we hope no one thinks the battle is over.

Economically, Baltimore in 1981 will be in no better or worse shape than any other urban center and as the nation goes so goes Charm City.

Politically, with organizations like COPE and RAC moving to mobilize our community for the not too distant city-wide elections, 1981 could very well be the year black Baltimore did the things necessary for our numerical majority in voting and residency population to finally ensure our control of City Hall and the City Council.

On that positive note we wish one and all a very Happy New Year.

NAACP election

Mrs. Enolia McMillan is to be congratulated on her election to another term as president of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP.

We feel an increasing vitality about this oldest of our freedom fighting organizations.

The election of new leadership, headed by a young turk, Paul Showell, will give Mrs. McMillan, an indefatigable fighter, some tough new fellow combatants in the cause.

We would hope this new generation of leadership, coupled with veteran NAACP members who have kept the organization's head above water in these recent lean years, will coalesce and harmoniously move the Baltimore branch to a position of prominence in the human rights crusade that has been its proud heritage and record in the past.

Monument photo

Dear AFRO:

I saw an AFRO photo of the Washington Monument (Mt. Vernon Section) at night by Roman Hankewycz in the Dec. 27 issue of the AFRO.

How can I get a copy? It is the best photo of the monument I have seen recently.

NAT JACKSON, JR.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please address all inquirie regarding purchase of photographs published in the AFRO to the office of the chairman, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md 21201

'HAPPY NEW YEAR' from the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER family to you and yours

MADELINE MURPHY

Stop the world...!

After 17 years at this job, the first seven off and on, the next 10 regularly, the question comes to mind, what kind of masochist chooses this kind of job anyway?

Clipping newspaper articles, reading books, scanning numerous publications, leaves the room piled high with other neglected papers, books, pamphlets that collect dust.

Ultimes, the papers go unclipped, the books move closer to the center of the table, bent and unread. You wonder which article you wanted filed, since the news has chilled a bit and other more pressing events have crowded in to take its place.

Yesterday's news, like ancient history, really becomes transitory in this business.

Then articles sometimes become pushed aside in favor of recipes, entertainment, sewing tips or how to make money freelancing.

Because beneath this gruff exterior, "Hard Hearted Hannah" would prefer a jaunt at writing a book, painting a masterpiece, delving into the foibles and eccentricities of that long-neglected knitting machine, or (miracle of miracles) writing that great American novel! More to the point—the oven needs cleaning.

And if one is addicted to TV (mostly PBS) where Washington Week in Review, Bill Noyer's Journal, the MacNeil-Lehrer Report and Agronsky and Co., merely jolt one back into reality, either by raising the adrenalin or anxiety level, guilt overpowers and those enticing flights of fancy evaporate.

The world, after all, is made of much sterner stuff. Harrumph!

There is also a period of pride and loyalty to regular readers, who make it all possible, increasing the guilt, yet at the same time investing the writer with an overblown "wisdom of Solomon" raising the determination to that of a David preparing to slay Goliath.

Then it is at these times that the brain goes into vertigo, the heart pumps faster, all profound musings disappear and space limitations intended to economize words, suddenly extend streams of consciousness. What a predicament!

Sometimes when quoted, the eyes glaze over, the idiot expression appears, as if the fans were speaking of another writer, another time in history. Long forgotten are the latest words or prognostications!

Time moves on. Deadlines keep crowding. The inexorable machine must keep cranking out more and more and more. No time even to savor the recollections, the motivations.

Despite the compliments to the loyalty that keeps one going, the pain of it all only intensifies the masochism.

It is at this moment you want to shout: Stop the world, I want to get off!

But so long as ideas buzz around, so long as they put momentum into the roaming, trudging and pacing back and forth from room to room; thinking, talking out loud to no one in particular, cussing the TV, reading the solicitous or complimentary letters crammed with ideas, suggestions and complaints, at this time of year one should count oneself lucky.

Maybe for the New Year, however, I should get myself together and resolve to do one thing at a time. File and sort. Keep or discard.

But it will be easier to keep wishing there were more hours in a day, more days in a week, to meet that blankety-blank deadline, calming one's self with the false notion that there is order in disorder.

One distressed daughter gave a book on how to organize. Now, if it could be found beneath that mound of books and Well, I'm reassured that it will all be sorted out when I can't find my check book or tax records by April 15. So much for resolutions.

Happy New Year to you anyway with the wish that you have better luck with your resolutions than I will have with mine!

No lonely yule

What kind of Christmas was it? That's what people ask you. As if they really care. It makes for easy conversation.

I know that most people really don't care, but I'll respond anyway.

Christmas Day, 1980 began as a disaster.

For the first time in recent memory, this writer was grounded. By all things gout, arthritis, rheumatism or whatever sufferers sustain when their joints don't work and are in constant pain.

It didn't look like Christmas as there was no snow. Because I had planned to be on the road there were none of the symbols of Christmas around the house.

No lights. No tree. No wreaths. None of those decorative pieces that give the home the yuletide glow.

It could have been a lonely Christmas for this writer. But, thank's to Alexander Graham Bell's invention, that has made Ma Bell millions and communication easy, it turned out to be a pretty good day after all.

And thanks to the dwindling number of Christmas cards there was a fond nostalgic stirring of people and past events.

Back when the postal service was political and the postage rates were reasonable, we used to receive as high as 260 Christmas cards. They came from everywhere. From the White House, a cabinet officer, from congress members, from persons on all levels. They covered one wall of our dining room.

This year, they hardly covered a bulletin top.

It's understandable, at 15 cents a throw for mailing and an average of 30 cents a card, Christmas greetings have become a luxury that has gone the way of gasoline prices.

But, those that still flow, each have an an interesting story.

Back in the 1940s, I resided at the only men's dorm in town — the Twelfth Street YMCA. Wendell Flair, a psychologist at Lorton, and Frank Suggs, a federal employee, were my roommates. Their cards reminded of the days when you could rent a room at the Y for $10 a month.

The federal pay in those years for the average black was $1,440 a year.

Year in and year out the most unusual Christmas cards that I received always came from Horace and Angelia McLilly. This year was no exception.

However, for the first time, the McLilly yule card was duplicated. Hester and Herbert Mangrum duplicated it. He is an alumnus of the old AFRO days.

One of the best cartoonists around the nation in the so-called "good ole days" was Francis Yancey. He left the AFRO in the 1940s to join the art staff of the Boston Globe, where he applied his talents until retirement. His yule card is always welcome.

I could go on and on, but space will not permit.

But, each of the modest number of cards brought back meaningful memories. Suddenly, I realized, that if I were on the road, I wouldn't have sat down to examine each card and ponder about the individuals and their impact upon me in the Black Experience.

As for the phone calls.

There is something about Thanksgiving and Christmas that motivates people to reach out and make things comfortable for those who are shut-in or without families.

Unfortunately, I couldn't accept a dinner invitation.

Well, since you can't join us, we will bring the dinner to you, said the charming wife Pat, of my longtime friend, Gerard Anderson.

The Anderson - Sweeny friendship goes way back. Among our greatest ventures, — we have been in on a few, since he once headed Cleveland's NAACP and had been an Urban League official, was in the Carl Stokes-for-mayor campaign.

When Stokes decided to enter the historic Cleveland mayoral race in the 60s, Anderson and I sounded a call for volunteers to distribute petitions to get Stokes on the ballot.

So many persons responded to our initial call that Anderson and I, awed by the magnitude, broke out in perspiration.

I looked at Anderson and asked: "What the hell happens if we win city Hall? What will we do?"

Anderson replied: "Damned if I know. We'll fake it. We've done it before."

History discloses that Stokes did become mayor. The first black big city mayor. Anderson became president of the transit board. His leadership led to building a successful national transportation consulting service.

He's had some physical problems. But, he has managed to come through them. With the constant assistance of his wife, Pat.

Add to Pat's meal, the contributions of neighbors Jackie Hendry and Mary Jackson and it turned out to be a good Christmas.

Throw in the family calls and the calls from friends and all in all, Christmas, 1980, was not bad at all.

LETTERS

Test for teachers and everyone else!

Dear AFRO:

We hear a great deal of the debate, "should teachers be tested?" Should we look at the real problems with teachers we will be surprised to find that testing teachers is a minor problem.

Concerning testing teachers, we should be sure that teachers have a command of the English language, that the computational skills be adequate and that they have a knowledge of the area in which they are to teach.

In elementary school, that is reading, writing, language and math skills.

From that point on, we are faced with a far greater problem than teacher competence. While we are at it, maybe we should look at a test for competence of each person elected to the legislature. We would also do well to have lawyers tested to see if they are as competent as one would expect. Next questions. What type of test do we administer to lawyers and the members of the legislature and who should test them?

An even more important question and one that has yet to be considered and answered, "should parents be tested?" and "what type of test should they be given?"

Schools would be far more improved if we were more competent as parents. The first and lasting direction given a child is from birth to five years of age.

More competent parents would have a better prepared child arrive at school to be taught and would provide the support needed to reenforce what is being taught in the classroom.

Consider the plight of Baltimore City school teachers.

1. Most of their students will earn more than their teachers within two years after high school.

2. Teachers in elementary schools are faced with well dressed but underfed children and are expected to teach them to thin, while they feel hunger pains resulting from pure neglect.

3. Children know their rights with respect to the limit in which they can be disciplined, but they don't know that Baltimore is in Maryland, or that Maryland is a part of the United States.

4. Evenings the basketball courts at every park have a waiting line for young Baltimore fathers to play basketball or touch football.

Happy hour will find the bars filled with young men having a drink after work, but PTA Meeting from 7:30 to 9 will be attended by a few mothers and even fewer fathers.

5. School administrators are frequently promoted to their position due to their excellent teaching records and the school loses good teachers and gains administrators that should have remained in the classroom. Schools need good teachers. Reward them for their teaching abilities.

6. Students are taught from the design of administrators who frequently limit the area to be taught. A teacher must be allowed to be innovative and use talents to the fullest.

7. We expect our children to become the type of citizens the city needs to maintain its growth when we direct them into areas where jobs are unavailable.

We buy them clothing that we know they should not wear to an interview or a job.

We encourage "Black English" when we are in need of the tools to communicate.

We teach them about Greek Gods when they don't know why and how to vote.

We teach them Social Studies, but not what interstate commerce means to the growth of a port city like Baltimore.

We take them to the museum but they don't know where Western Maryland is. We stress their rights but they don't know how laws are made.

We need competent parents; an administration that designs programs that would get students to the same positions the administrators have attained.

We need legislators who will provide the same salaries for beginning teachers that they give a beginning state Senator or House member, especially since the beginning teacher accomplishes more and bears more independent responsibility. We need to recognize our faults and address them.

Baltimore City teachers in an environment that is conducive to teaching will be as representative as any school system in the state.

Never has so much been done with so little by a group that is so unappreciated and so grossly underpaid. By the way, I am not a teacher; I couldn't afford to be. Coud you?

LARRY J. GRAY

Gray Panthers hit registration

We are protesting the routinization of draft registration for 18 to 20 year olds. Beginning the week of Jan. 5, men and perhaps at some point women, will be required by law to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. We opposed registration this past summer, and are opposed to the institutionalization of registration for many reasons.

Most of these reasons have been heard before: It is unnecessary, it works to create a permanent military establishment, it increases the likelihood of adventurist foreign policy, reinstitution of the draft, and war. One objection not often heard is that draft registration is ageist. The term is familiar to us because we are members of the Gray Panthers, and to us ageism means discrimination based on age.

Many people are aware of what the consequences of age discrimination are for older citizens. What is commonly overlooked is what effect it has on younger citizens. Registration provides a clear example.

There is no rational basis for specifying the 18 to 20 year old age group for draft registration. Indeed, a 1979 Brookings Institute study, and the testimony of top military officials before Congress leaves little doubt that an older and more experienced armed forces would require fewer persons at significantly lower cost.

No American should unquestioningly accept the logic of public policy when it is founded upon such discriminatory principles. Let the responsibility for war, as for other elements of both prosperity and hardship, be in principle and reality shared equally amongst us all. Let us not demonstrate our patriotism by imposing the responsibility for it in a discriminatory way.

That is one of the important reasons for the opposition of the Gray Panthers, both young and old, to draft registration. That is one of the reasons why the Gray Panthers has a membership of approximately 30 per cent which is under forty. We will be out protesting registration the week of Jan. 5, because we are against both war and ageism as a matter of principle.

ELNORA W. JACKSON
Co-Convenor,
Gray Panthers

More freedom answer for a strong America

By Alexander R. Jones

The Reagan Administration with former CIA director George Bush as vice-president is expected to give new life to forces that want the CIA and FBI to return to their old, pre-Watergate status: super secret organizations with almost total power to do whatever they want, when they want to, without regard to American liberties or civil rights.

During the height of its power, if the CIA wanted to test out some new mind altering drug, it simply sent some agents down to a local bar where they slipped some of the drug into some poor guy's drink, and then watched the reaction. If the FBI wanted to smear some political activist, it would collect data on the person's sexual habits, or worse, invent some nasty rumors and circulate these in his neighborhood.

These agencies spied upon, infiltrated, bugged, burglarized, and in short violated the Constitutional rights of countless individuals and groups who had broken no law. These two agencies made it dangerous to speak out loudly against an injustice or to protest a controversial government policy.. And that is not freedom. It is the beginning of slavery.

— —

The memory of these abuses, although getting more faint, is still with us, and perhaps still just the recollections of the "dirty tricks" era is enough to prevent its reoccurence now. But what will happen once these things are forgotten?

— —

If a big push for secrecy is successful, if the FBI and CIA are allowed to operate with no accountability to the citizens they are supposed to serve, then the door will be open for similar abusers, perhaps not immediately but maybe five or ten years from now.

And if history is any indicator, given the opportunity, the abuses will reoccur.

So the Reagan administration is at an historic junction. It can make changes that will someday go down in history as having opened the door to a tragic new series of abuses by the CIA and FBI. Or it can do something that the last administration promised but never delivered. It can help to pass legislation that carefully defines the role of the FBI and the CIA, give these agencies the power they need to do their jobs, and at the same time keeps them accountable to the public.

Alexander R. Jones is associate director of the Church of Scientology's National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice.

—MORE LETTERS—

Jamaican protest

Dear AFRO:

As a Jamaican, I can identify with my countrymen in the decision to oust Mr. Manley.

Jamaicans take politics seriously. Persons have lost limbs, lives or have been maimed for life because of political affiliations. We are a fickle people, politically, and we will change sides if he feel that the other party has the potential to be more effective. It is therefore not surThe recent occurances in my country, then, are not or should not be surprising to people who know about our political history.

Mr. Horman Washington Manley, the father of Michael Manley, formed the People's National Party. This party was always supported by the intellectuals.

Michale Manley, later rejected those people and threw many out of the country who would not do his will politically.

Sir Alexander Bustamente, a cousin of Norman Manley, formed the Jamaica Labor Party, the party now in power. This party has always been for the poor and working people. Incidentally, it was Sir Bustamente who led Jamiaca into independence. In 1962-63, there was a plan to form a federation of the West Indies by Mr. Manley and some of his socialist friends.

The peopl became wise to a possible Communist block and voted for independence. Black people thorughout the world must realize that we have the same energy. Unity is a strategy and economic strength is lacking among our race.

No country, or people, especially black people, wants to be enslaved. Capitalism seems to be the better of two evils. Communism also exploits and oppresses people. Look at the Cuban situation as an example.

Items taken for tranted here in the United States became scarce in Jamaica. Most Jamaicans could not afford to buy washing soap, toothpaste, flour, and even sugar.

The IMF may be evil or a capitalistic weapon of control, but if my people have food, clothing, jobs and other basics, it cannot be all bad. without the western capitalistic nations, the Communists could not survive.

Let us, therefore, deal with a "back to Africa" movement. Oppression, rejection and exploitation brings killings, rapes, stealing and other evils.

We as black people should unite in godliness, sharing, caring, loving, helping and above all, praying that we will be "free at last."

A CONCERNED READER

Reservoir Hill

Dear AFRO:

As an involved resident of Reservoir Hill, I would like to respond to the AFRO's recent articles and published letters on the problems that our community has been having.

I am a concerned resident of Reservoir Hill and am also a member of an independent, grass roots organization called Residents for a Better Reservoir Hill. This group is in opposition to the current policies of the current community association.

Many lower-income people supported Tony Fulton as the community association president in 1979 because he seemed to be able to represent a variety of neighborhood interests. He lost support because his administration resulted in the deterioriation of the Home Ownership Program, which was established to prevent displacement by enabling neighborhood tenants to buy houses.

People were also disillusioned by his undemocratic conduct of meetings, and also his unwarranted use of authority to overrule and bypass decisions of the membership, executive board and committees of the community association.

Mr. Fulton claims credit for development activities that have been in the planning and implementation stages since 1976, and while it is true that his housing committee originated a proposal to redevelop the 2000 block of Linden Ave., this proposal also involved forced relocation of many low income residents who were living in the block at that time.

The situation prompted the formation of the Home Ownership Task Force, a group of residents who were interested in fighting displacement as opposed to redevelopment of the area. None of the officers of Mr. Fulton's community association were a part of this effort.

Mr. Fulton refers in his letter of Dec. 19 to a Neighborhood Self Help Grant awarded to the Reservoir Hill community during his presidency. As a result of that grant, four homes will be rehabilitated for low income residents, but the proposal was not presented to the members of the community association, the members of which would have wanted to stretch the funds to benefit a greater number of people.

In order to reunite our community, the low income residents must be reassured that the Reservoir Hill Community Association is looking out for their interests along with the other segments of the community. To accomplish this, the RHCA and HCD must respect the federal guidelines, and HCD must respect the RHCA leadership and the wishes of the general membership of the community.

I call on Mr. Fulton and HCD to expedite the demands of 650 residents. Only then will the community as a whole be able to regain confidence in HCD and the Reservoir Hill Community Association.

Mr. Fulton said in his letter to the AFRO that the people "shall look out for the enemies from Washington (Ronald Reagan)." But how can the low income residents do that when most of them feel that the enemy may exist right in their own back yards?

Mr. Fulton, don't tell us how many tax dollars are being spent in Reservoir Hill. Tell us how many needy families are being assisted.

BERNICE PAYNE
Vice-Pres.
Residents for a
Better Reservoir Hill

POLITICAL PERISCOPE

The NAACP election

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

It was a cold November night in West Baltimore. Outside St. John's Church, a metallic winter moon shined down on the three figures huddled near the doorway of the church.

A robbery in progress? Well, not exactly a robbery. But what was going on was part of a larger plan which, by the end of the night, would plunge the Baltimore branch of the NAACP into one of the most exciting elections in recent history.

Inside the church, Mrs. Enolia McMillan and scores of NAACP members prepared for that night's report from the nominating committee. Several representatives from various organizations were on hand to address the group, and NAACP workers were busily setting up and distributing materials for the evening.

But the most strenuous activity was political, and the scent of the tension and excitement that accompanies the political milieu was evident.

Paul Showell sat quietly in a folding chair, and when asked if he would actually attempt a run at the NAACP presidency, would only smile cryptically and say "see what happens."

What happened was simple. Showell had sent up trial balloons earlier stating that he would run for the presidency, currently held by Mrs. Enolia McMillan, but, after her name was placed in nomination, he stared fixedly ahead with the same enigmatic smile.

No one placed his name in nomination, but, as it turned out, he wasn't mad.

Dr. Cathy Pope Smith, who was rumored to be, Mrs. McMillan's hand - picked successor, (Mrs. McMillan later denied the rumors), read off the list of candidates for the office of first vice president. She was head of the nominating committee, and her name was the only one place in nomination by that committee.

Julian Morgan, who had been rejected by that same committee earlier, stood and placed Showell's name in nomination from the floor. After a moment's pause, Showell accepted the offer.

Morgan questioned the ethical discretion of having his application for nomination rejected by a committee whose head sought the same nomination.

Mrs. McMilan rose quickly to the defense of Dr. Smith, and after a quick check with the organizational handbook, the objection was overruled.

Almost a month later, on Dec. 16, Showell scored a victory over Dr. Smith. Morgan, who ran for the office of 2nd vice - president, also captured the seat.

Rounding out the slate of officers are 3rd vice president, Rev. Douglass Miles; repeating secretary Josephine Eversley, who retained her secretary's seat slot, and Reginald Robinson, who out - distanced Raymond Wade for the treasurer's seat.

Showell won the election by keeping his cards close to his vest and surprising those who expected him to give Mrs. McMillan a battle.

He has already proven his skill at politics, but what remains to be seen is his skill as a leader in the organization. He is carrying into office a fresh new crop of leaders, and the largest, male contingent of NAACP officers in a long time.

A new year is starting, and the NAACP will be kicking it off with its annual Jubilee - Passover day, which is being held in conjunction with the Prince Hall Masons.

Hopefully this year will be one of Jubilee for the NAACP, if the fruit of that cold November night matures into a strong new direction for that organization.

Orchard St. Church

Dear AFRO:

The BL-EWS are a group of blacks and Jews meeting in dialogue on a periodic basis discussing and acting on issues of common concern. The purpose of the BL-ews is: 1. to promote better understanding; 2. to be communicators to their respective constituencies; 3. to stimulate, and directly undertake activities intended to improve relations between the black and Jewish communities of the Baltimore area; and 4. To achieve objectives of mutual concern to those communities.

The BL-EWS has identified the preservation of the Orchard Street Church as a cultural museum to be an issue of concern. The Orchard Street Church represents an historic focal point for the social, political and religious interactions between the black and white communities of this city.

Its preservation is naturally complementary to the city's commitment to revitalization and ethnic pride. To allow the demise of the Orchard Street Church project would be tragic.

We have recently noted that a deadline of Dec. 31, 1980 has been established by which time $75,000 is to be raised in order for the City to fulfill its commitment for the completion of this endeavor.

We therefore urge that all parties who have a role in the determining process exercise those prerogatives which will assure the citizens of Baltimore the opportunity to take pride in the historical legacy of this national monument.

KEN MONTAGUE,
CHAIRPERSON
ALLEN SCHWAIT,
PAST CHAIRPERSON
DR. LESLIE KING HAMMOND
Chairperson Issues Committee

AFRO Street Interview

The Question: What New Year's resolutions are you making?

(AFRO photo feature by Milton Williams)

Listed below are the answers given to this week's street interview question:

MADELINE WILLIAMS — To lose 20 pounds of weight. Other than that, none.

DOUGLASS JACKSON — I plan to become a better student at Howard University; to try to help black people further themselves, you know, in general, to try to help black people, the black race. That's my New Year's resolution.

CLARENCE WILLIAMS — My resolution is like I would like to see my black people, you understand, wake up and get ahead, you understand, and deal with what's really going on and face it, you know. And like I feel like the way things are going now, like the only blacks who are going to survive are the ones that are thinking and they got to come together you understand. And for our younger blacks, I fear for them unless they are more disciplined.

I would like to see a program where they have a chance, you understand, because there is a reason why they are the way they are and the older people must help them, you understand, and teach them right. And so that's all I have to say.

ELSIE SMITH — Write more letters to outside family members and people who are out of town. Be more considerate. I plan to advise more people to buy the AFRO and patronize our own publishers and newspapers because that's the only way you can find out about black news.

ISABELLE KIRBY — My New Year's resolution is to try to save more money, get close to God and keep healthy.

LOUISE MOORE — None! Just keep the same old ones. (And what were they?) Well, to go strong on the Lord and to keep up the good work for Him.

PENNY MOORE — Stop smoking, stay in the house, get out the streets, stop doing things wrong, go to school for a trade to get my GED for key punching.

MADELINE WILLIAMS — DOUGLASS JACKSON — CLARENCE WILLIAMS — ELSIE SMITH — ISABELLE KIRBY — LOUISE MOORE — PENNY MOORE — BABA NGOMA — ANGUS McCORMICK

BABA NGOMA — I have not made a New Year's resolution in f[illegible] don't know how long. Well, it's a continuing resolution. I guess, I made back in the late sixties. Keep on struggling. (White folks are saying the sixties are over!) They say a lot of things. So the thing is to keep on struggling, intensity the struggle.

ANGUS McCORMICK — My New Year's resolution to begin with is to get married the first week in January and that's the big change, there. That will be a big step for me and m[illegible]

JAN