The changing face of crime

By Hahya B. A. Muhammad

We find ourselves faced with more petty crime today than ever before in the history of this country.

Black on black crime, crime perpetrated against the elderly, white collar crime, crime, including murder committed by our teenagers and even pre-teens. Where will it end? Who really cares whether it ends?

When we look at the Criminal Justice System, we can see it is a multi-million dollar business. Not that there are not well meaning people, who sincerely want to see crime stopped, but it appears those well meaning people have thrown up their hands and left the solving of the crime problem to those who would use it only to supply jobs for the elite and their supporters.

The only solutions these elitist are proposing are to build more prisons. This is doing nothing to eradicate crime. However, it is giving employment to thousands of lawyers, court attendants, record keepers, wardens, guards, cooks, clothiers, manufacturers of special vehicles to transport the convicted felon from place to place.

And all of it is being paid for at the tax payer's expense. It is time for society to wake up and begin to look for genuine solutions to the criminal problem.

We might start with a meaningful education for all the citizens of this country, regardless of ethnic background. We should make a sincere effort to place every individual in an employment setting that will bring out the best in him or her, whether it is in business, management, labor or any other fields of endeavor.

To accomplish this end, we will have to be bold enough to work for the destruction of the racist practices we find influencing the minds of society, practices which are holding us back as a nation.

Who knows how many geniuses are spending their time lingering in some prison when they could be useful to themselves and to their country by being productive members of society. We as blacks must stop using the same old, worn out excuse that because we are black, everyone and everything is against us.

There was a time in our history when we accused the white people of being prejudiced against us. We said if they would only give us a chance, we would prove we could be equal.

We now are equal with everyone else in our country and we should not permit anyone to stop us from exercising that equality.

We must prove we are not born criminals and rejects in the society and must stop this foolish notion we have of leaving America and go back to Africa. Certainly we should have ties with Africa and certainly we should work with our brothers and sisters on the continent.

Africa may be a nice place to visit, but our home is here. Our blood, sweat and tears have been shed here. We do not find any other ethnic group caving in and giving up. Many of them came to this country many years after we were brought here.

At this very writing, there are emigrants who cannot wait to get into this country. They see opportunities in America most people in other nations only dream of and we see ourselves as having nightmares here.

We must compete with the rest and let nothing cause our failure. These petty crimes that are being perpetrated upon us, by us, can be wiped out over night if we come to terms with ourselves and go back to the basics of helping each other.

Do not say it cannot be done! It must be done, if we are to survive as members of the human family. Those of us who find ourselves down and out and who are above grade school levels and unemployed, must be willing to make some personal sacrifices.

We must be willing to dry ourselves out if we have become victims of the vices afflicting millions of us. The vices include alcohol, drugs, gambling. We must clean ourselves, look presentable and begin the search for proper employment.

We should spend as many hours looking for work as we would spend working, if we had a job.

If we just cannot find a job after putting in the necessary hours looking, then we should turn to each other, go to the next door neighbor and ask him to permit you to paint his house, clean his yard or anything you feel you are qualified to do.

If the neighbor asks how much are you going to charge him, say, nothing. This may sound ridiculous, but if you try it, you will be rewarded for it. A man needs to have work. It destroys him to be idle.

Our women, we do not have too much to do at home, should ask the neighbor, who has to work and pay a babysitter exorbitant prices if she could help by keeping the neighbor's children.

In time, other neighbors will begin to recognize you for your generosity and good work. They will begin to offer work that will be financially rewarding for you and your family.

At the same time, you will have begun building confidence in the neighborhood. Neighbors will begin speaking to neighbors and pretty soon our older women and our young daughters will be able to walk through the streets without the thought of being molested or robbed by others in the community.

We have come to a point in life where we are insensitive to our needs and we are insensitive to the needs of others. Our leaders and professionals are insensitive to our needs and we are insensitive to theirs.

We do not find this attitude among other ethnic groups. They look out for each other. When we renew our interest in each other, our crime problems will disappear.

Coppin winter schedule

Coppin State College will hold spring registration on Wednesday, Jan. 13 and 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Registration for first-time freshmen, readmits, and transfers will be held Monday, Jan. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Tawes College Center.

Late registration will be held in the College Center on Tuesday, Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, Jan. 20 thru 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will be held in the college auditorium.

Classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 20. For more information contact the Office of Admissions at 383-5990.

The Red Cross Club from Eastern High School presented canned foods, toys, games, clothing to AFRO's Mrs. Santa to help needy families. They thanked all the students and staff for helping. Mrs. Ruby Lee was teacher sponsor. Richard Terrill is the English teacher. Above, Nathaniel Tynes, Bonnie Stanley, Jacqueline Bowers, Mack James, Bernard Fowlkes and Curtis Moore.

—Eastside lawsuits

(Continued from Page 1)

"The child acts fine until the lead (levels) get so high ... so destructive it cause retardation. The child eats, plays, acts fine until they become retarded," she said.

The only way it can be detected is through regular medical treatment, which includes the taking of blood tests. In older houses, where lead paint was used, it since has been banned, the paint chips, flakes or peels. Children often eat the chips which are "sweet tasting," Ms. Gill said.

Other functions of the clinic include parent education, Ms. Hutchinson said, where proper ways to clean a house, how to feed children the right foods and what medications children should be given.

Funds available for day care

Social Service departments in the Baltimore area have funds to provide day care for many children. But officials say federal budget cuts have eliminated the staff to handle applications and distribute the money.

"A part of you wants to scream at everybody ... that we've got money now for day care," said Muriel Silverstein, who heads the Baltimore County day care program. "But the other part of you knows that you don't have the staff to handle them if you do."

Mrs. Silverstein and other officials caution the unspent funds do not represent a savings. The money is earmarked for day care payments and cannot be used for staff or administrative costs, so it will be spent eventually.

But in the interim, social workers trying to sort out waiting lists for the program find some applicants no longer need the service and some welfare mothers who were seeking day care so they could go to work have turned down job offers because the department could not get to them fast enough.

The social service departments in Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard and Harford counties and Baltimore City all have surpluses in their day care budgets that could pay for day care for several hundred low - income children, officials said.

About a year ago, most social service departments stipped accepting new children for day care when Congress failed to provide some anticipated funds and the state cut its day care budgets.

The beginning of the new (fiscal) year July 1 brought new funds but it has been difficult for social service departments to place children. Particularly without the federal comprehensive employment and training act (CETA) workers and other staff members lost through federal budget cuts.

Officials say the process is complicated by long waiting lists that accumulated during the Freeze, the lack of a computer to help officials keep track of money and children, and in the city's case, an antiquated processing system the state says should be updated.

Charles Heren, day care coordinator in Howard County, said he has gotten through much of the waiting list of 200 names that accumulated during the freeze.

He estimated when he finishes the list, he will have money to pay for day care for about 20 new children.

Anne Arundel County Day Care Coordinator Thomas C. McArdle said he can handled about 30 new children.

Harford County Social Services director Lawrence J. Beradelli said the county has money to pay for more children, but has no where to put them because the department does not have enough staff to license private homes that could provide the care.

—Hangovers

(Continued from Page 1)

Multiply the difference by the weight factor (three for 150 pounds or less, two for above 150 pounds), then divide by 100.

For example, if a person weight more than 150 pounds has consumed five drinks in four hours, his approximate blood alcohol level is .02 percent.

Under the Maryland Motor Vehicle code, a BAC of .08 percent is considered driving under the influence and .13 is intoxicated. The national standard is .10 for intoxication.

Clearwater pointed out several factors influence the effect of alcohol, namely fatigue, drinking in smoke - filled rooms with less oxygen, a person's mood, even the social setting.

But what can make a person feel better the next day when he swallows more booze than he should have?

Try aspirin, preferrably buffered for the stomach's sake, before bed. A couple of glasses of water could forestall a raging morning - after thirst, clearwater said.

A snack before retiring could help, but "preferably not something greasy that's hard to digest," he said.

"The hair of the dog" or Bloody Mary's for breakfast commonly are touted as restoratives.

Clearwater didn't recommend that solution for a throbbing skull, but added with a laugh, "aspirin's a pain killer, and so is alcohol."

While a person's sad experience with hangovers might increase with age, "The older you get the longer it takes to recover," he said.

Popping vitamins, such as B - 12, C and E, might do some good, but like all home cures, including gulping a mix of soy sauce, raw egg and water, the major benefit provably is mental.

"If you think it makes you feel better, go for it. And if you believe it works, it just might," Clearwater said.

And if all other remedies fail, be patient.

"Especially during the holidays, alcohol has a tendency to disrupt the feeding of the body. So basically just wait, rest and let your body get itself back together again," he said.

—Postal employees

(Continued from Page 1)

The incident apparently has left some of Giles' fellow employees at the post office concerned about the absence of nurses at the post office. The AFRO has learned some of his co-workers said the absence of trained medical personnel during weekend and holiday shifts was a possible factor in Giles' death.

Apparently, one of the unions representing postal employees are angry about the situation, one that is supposed to have gone unremedied since the last death at the post office, about 18 months ago.

Bill Freland, a public relations officer at the post office said only two shifts in the whole week go uncovered by a nurse. The uncovered hours are the light days, Saturday night and Sunday morning, he said.

However, the post office trains its employees in CPR, he said. At least one trained individual is on duty during each shift.

Herb Brown, a 27-year postal employee, told the AFRO the postal workers' union has been fighting to get a nurse on the weekend and holiday shifts.

"This is a time when things like this happen," Brown said. "It makes you feel a little apprehensive with no nurse around."

He said he was unaware of any plans by the post office to post a nurse on the weekend shifts. The union "protested the last time (a similar incident occured at the post office.) It didn't do any good," Brown said.

Advertising career course planned

The Advertising Association of Baltimore will offer a "Careers in Advertising" course at the College of Notre Dame beginning Feb. 4, 1982.

Classes will meet once weekly for nine consecutive weeks through April 1 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Professionals in the field of advertising will address creative copy writing, art and layout, production, photography, print and broadcast production, marketing, public relations, media planning and buying, direct mail, sales promotion and packaging, industrial and retail advertising and account management.

The course will present the principals of advertising as well as practical application.

The special course is open to anyone interested in advertising for further study or for attaining career goals. It may be taken as a non-credit course for two undergraduate credits to be awarded by the College of Notre Dame.

Upon completion of the course, four awards totaling $1,000 will be given to the four students with the highest grades.

Enrollment is limited to 60 students. If interested, please call the Continuing Education Office at the College of Notre Dame, 435-0100, ext. 466 or 421, or write to Continuing Education Office, College of Notre Dame, 4701 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md. 21210.

Orchestra auditions

Auditions for prospective members of the Greater Baltimore Youth Orchestra will be held Friday, Jan. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the humanities and arts building at Essex Community College.

The orchestra, under the direction of Christopher Wolfe, a member of the music faculty at the college and assistant principal clarinetist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, is made up of musically talented youngsters from the greater Baltimore area and surrounding counties.

It operates out of the Creative Arts Centre at Essex Community College in Baltimore County, through funding in part from the Baltimore County Commission for Arts and Sciences and the Musicians' Performance Fund.

The group plays a schedule of concerts throughout the year, most recently on Dec. 9 at Perry Hall High School with a combined choir in a Christmas program, and on Dec. 13 at the festival of carols program at Mount Vernon place Methodist Church for the benefit of the Santa Claus Anonymous fund.

Rehearsals are on Saturday afternoons, with members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra often sitting in as section coaches.

For information about the orchestra or to arrange for an audition, call Carol A. Kingsmore, orchestra manager, in the music department at Essex Community College at 532-1433.

—Goodbye 1981

(Continued from Page 1)

A bill making cross-burning a felony was passed into law by the 1981 General Assembly in Annapolis. The law would leave violators without the right to vote and would face them with a possible 5-year prison sentence.

Delegate Howard 'Pete' Rawlings, D-40, commissioned a study which revealed a 2-1 disparity in the likelihood of blacks to be arrested relative to their white counterparts. The study parralled a study commissioned by the governor's office in 1980.

Despite strides made in civil rights, hatemongering groups still exist.

Several incidents of Klan activity have been reported in Maryland, including the Baltimore area in 1981.

Three crosses were burned in the Woodlawn section of Baltimore county in January. "Klan type literature" also was found placed on cars in the Catonsville area. And William Swales of the 1200 block of Newfield Rd. found threatening literature posted on his door.

Black actor Frederick Ira Aldridge, born in New York City, was acclaimed in Europe as one of the 19th century's greatest actors.

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1982

SPECIAL DELIVERY — Newborn daughter Cora (in arms) surprised her mother and was born at home in the family's bathroom. Sandra McGowen said she was in labor before her husband could reach her and they could get to a hospital. Four-year-old Terrell was excited about the family's new member.

AFRO photo by Martin Evans

Couple receives holiday surprise

Sandra and Vernon McGowen received an early, suprise Christmas gift this year, a six pound four ounce baby girl. It was an early gift because she arrived Dec. 18, two months early. It was a suprise because she was delivered in their bathroom.

Sandra McGowen said the labor pains began only 3 minutes before she went into labor and she delivered the child on the bathroom floor without assistance.

"It came so quickly I couldn't get to bed," the proud mother said.

Mrs. Gowen said she called her husband shortly before she went into labor but "before he got home the baby was already here."

"This kind of thing happens frequently," said Claude Hill, her physician, referring to the unusual circumstances under which the baby was brought into the world. Often, labor is hard to predict and babies are delivered at home, or on the way to the hospital in taxis or police cars, he said.

An ambulance brought Mrs. McGowen to Union Memorial Hospital where she and her child were treated. The child although two months premature, has been described as being in good health, and was discharged from the hospital five days later.

The new child, Cora, has 3 brothers. Cora's eldest brother, 6 year old Wayne, said he is glad to have a sister to go with his two brothers.

Motorists beware of cold

Motorists beware! 'Tis the season to be stranded, says the American Automobile Association.

The winter season brings snow, ice and cold temperatures, all of which can be a nightmare for drivers. Snow and ice mean skidding fenderbenders or getting stuck in drifts, and the cold means frozen gas lines and weak batteries resulting in cars that can't start.

To the rescue come towtruck drivers such as Clifton Johnson, an employee of McCains Towing Service of W. 26th street. One of the area's member AAA road service drivers, he says calls from stranded motorists peak during the winter months.

"I got 40 calls yesterday. I average only 15 to 20," Johnson said. He said because of the holiday many cars went unused and sat in the cold and wet, resulting in the unusual number of starting problems.

Preventitive maintenance is the way to avoid these troubles, Johnson said.

Guardian Angels:

Group is too small to fight crime?

Police say it is too soon to tell what effect the Gardian Angels, an organization of Urban crime fighters that began in New York in 1979, is having in the city since squad patrols began in mid - November.

"I haven't seen any impact so far but I think we would have to look at this over a longer period of time," said police spokesman Mike Bass.

He added the police department does not object to the group's presence.

"The fact that the Angels have had no impact is not a negative response," Bass said. "We're just not judging them now."

Community leaders in neighborhoods where the group patrols also are uncertain about the Angels' impact.

Ralph Moore, assistant director of the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center near the Angels' headquarters, said he has not noticed any effect of the street anti - crime patrols.

"I hear people say positive things about them but I don't really see any results," he said. "I've yet to see them (on patrol). I don't think it's a bad group — its intentions are good — but the Angels are not having nearly as much impact as the people thought they would have in Baltimore.

Lucille Gorham, director of Citizens For Fair Housing, a community organization, also questioned the Angels' effectiveness.

"I don't think they have been a deterrent to any crime," she said. "I don't see how they can if they're here only a couple of hours.

"They would have to have more people and be assigned to an area and stay there. And I don't think they should go into a community without contacting the people in the community," she added.

When the Angels began their recruiting drive in Baltimore last summer, 250 people signed up.

In November, 41 people graduated from the Angels' training class and the Baltimore chapter was established.

Since then, however, local enthusiasm apparently has diminished. Recently, only about a dozen Angels and recruits showed up at headquarters, almost preventing a leader from organizing a patrol.

But Chapter Commander Sissy Henson said recruiting has continued at several Baltimore high schools and she expected interest to pick up when the weather warms up and schools let out.

So far the Angels have only one citizen's arrest. That occurred last Tuesday when an Angel saw two youths trying to take a bag containing boots from another youth. Police said an angel intervened, chased a suspect and held him until police arrived.

NAACP launches youth drive

The NAACP is continuing a youth drive designed to develop new leadership.

Enolia McMillan, Baltimore city chapter president, said she initiated the movement about 13 years ago to introduce "youth and vitality" and to insure the perpetuation of the organization.

"We had really become an old organization," she said.

She also said despite difficulties with attracting young involvement, progress has been made. Many of the city chapter's members active at various levels are in their 20s, 30s and 40s, she said.

Among other efforts, the city's NAACP has organized a youth council, scheduled to be chartered by the national office in January.

The function of the group, to be named the Lillie Mae Jackson NAACP Youth Council, is to instill leadership qualities in young men and women under 21 through involvement in NAACP activities.

Another group, The youth work committee, chaired by Frieda Jones, works to coordinate activities between youth and college chapters. The work of the committee resulted in the Lillie Mae Jackson council.

"Getting young people involved is a hard thing to do these days," said George Buntin, NAACP political action committee chairman.

City police shot 20 during 1981

BALTIMORE — City police shot 20 people, three fatally, so far in 1981, an increase over the 1980 total of 18, a department spokesman said, this week.

"Obviously, there have been more instances this year where officers have been confronted with life - threating situations," said police spokesman Mike Bas. "But there have been exceedingly more instances where officers could have used deadly force and didn't — where they exercised restraint."

Confrontations between residents and police ended in 24 shootings this year, five times in December alone.

Four officers have been shot in the line of duty, including Ronald Tracey, a 26 - year - old officer killed last July when he tried to break up a dispute between two men involved in a traffic accident.

In 1980, five police officers were shot but none was killed. Of the 18 people shot by officers in 1980, four died.

Bass said at least five of the most recent shootings occurred when police were called to intervene in domestic disturbances and were confronted with armed residents.

The increase in shootings corresponds to a general upswing in crime in the city during 1981, Bass noted.

Violent crimes, including murder, rape, armed robbery and aggravated assault, increased by 13.7 percent during the first nine month os the year, compared with 1980.

Police regulations governing the use of deadly force require officers to use their weapons only when their life or the life of a citizen is in danger. (UPI)

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