Baltimore Afro-American

# OPINION

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## A New Year

Most of us have survived our first full year under the Reagan administration. That in itself is hopeful.

State and local governments, Maryland included, seem intent upon not letting Reagonomics adversely affect the truly needy and social welfare agencies are reaching deep into their brain pools to save programs that simply cannot be cut or phased out of existence if a significant number of Americans are to survive on even the simplest of terms.

More parochially, the General Assembly soon will begin its deliberations.

We know the issues of crime, social welfare programs (the saving of same) reapportionment are going to be critical issues.

Thus far, our black legislative caucus has not yet made public its agenda or formal priorities, but we expect that information soon.

We expect the political pace to quicken. In the East, we watch Nathan Irby to see if he goes it alone. In the West, we wonder if one dare challenge Congressman Mitchell and in the near Northeast we expect Ray Haysbert to pull a major coup.

But we cannot eat politics per se.

To his credit William Donald Schaefer, in our minds, has had much to do with the softening of Ronald Reagan on such vitals as community block grants and other federal assistance that cities in the Northeast corridor desperately need if they are to survive.

On this one, our mayor has fought the good fight.

We are optimistic about 1982.

We have endured worse than Mr. Reagan and we sense plenty of life and vitality in our people.

Happy New Year to our readers, to all citizens.

## Unity within the black community

Usually a new year rekindles hopes and inspires feelings for a brighter future thus renewing prospects for relief from the stresses and strains brought on by circumstances beyond our control. Most likely we adopt a view that our perennial struggle for economic equality and justice will finally begin to show results. We reason that the burden will somehow be eased and our energy and courage will be redoubled to meet challenges that lay ahead and sometimes seem so dismal and overbearing.

This attitude seemingly has permeated the black community and prevents it from being without sensitivity on one hand and wallowing in the doldrums of self-pity on the other. Of course, we are not naive enough to believe that all the ills will vanish overnight. We know that unemployment of some nine million persons will not drop significantly in a short time, despite all the plaudits of the Reagan administration. The crux of existence is a meaningful job with an adequate income that will enable the head of a family to maintain dignity and respect in carrying out family responsibilities. When family income is below a projected level morale plunges and projects fade because energy and concern concentrate on making ends meet and acquiring basic necessities. There is little room left for frills.

But there is reason to hope for a brighter future within the black community because understanding and unity are much more pervasive than they have been before. With a deep sense of spontaneous compassion many black persons have come to the rescue of those less fortunate than themselves. During this past holiday season churches and other community organization launched an unsponsored campaign that resulted in a massive gathering of basic goods and foodstuffs. This selfless and spontaneous effort resulted from appeals of pastors and other community leaders who recognized that an urgent need was there to be met. The commodities were distributed without regard to political parties or religious affiliations. The entire operation was free of official government sponsorship or supervision. It was a community effort in the metropolitan area that showed the basic spirit of christianity in all its magnificent idealism.

This type of leadership bodes well for the black community because it sets a vivid example for the coming generation that we have the will and capacity to come to the support of those who have been less fortunate than their peers. This leadership ability and conscientiousness can be developed through education and training that motivate understanding and compassion for fellow members, regardless of their social or economic status. With this spirit the wisdom can be passed down to future generations so that their wisdom will help them cope with the pressures that will inevitably crop up when they are compelled to assume responsibilities. It is hoped that this spirit of unity and feeling for the welfare of the less fortunate will continue to prevail in the black community. Benefits reach far beyond the black community.

## Predictions, reflections of season

By Al Sweeney

As far as this writer is concerned, I would just as soon forget that 1981 ever existed.

But, unfortunately, it can't be wiped off the calendar.

There was no mistake that the movement — the civil rights movement - that is — was over.

With the political change, two of our biggest organizations that were dependent upon the Yankee dollar were virtually economically drained. The National Urban League and the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) were casualties of the federal budget cuts.

While the national NAACP was not dependent upon the federal dollars, it, too, was in financial despair. However, the NAACP's public relations office reports that memberships were up and there was evidence of some financial increase in 1981.

But the NAACP's chapters around the nation remain the organization's biggest problem. They continue to be dominated by tired, old leadership and refuse to welcome youthful creative members to their ranks. As a result, the moribund local leadership is draining the national influence of our top civil rights organization.

As we go into 1982, one by one our black leaders have left the scene. For better or for worse the NAACP's Ben Hooks remains the lone leader of the blacks to lead them out of the present wilderness.

If he can get control of his two-headed organization that he shares uncomfortably with Margaret Bush Wilson, maybe the Rev. Hooks can return to the problems of state. The state of the NAACP is somewhat confused. Where the future national office will hang out its shingle, whether in NYC, Detroit or Washington, DC, remains the question.

But, it is my prediction that Rev. Ben Hooks will prevail and out of its current travail and tribulation, the NAACP will move ahead again. It has to.

The National Urban League will no longer be looked upon as a civil rights leader. Whitney Young gave it a major role of keeping the bridge between the nation's power structure and the black community. He did so with the organization keeping its credibility.

Strangely enough, although crimes glut the newspaper pages, there hardly is any talk of the chief instrument of violent offenses, handguns. The media's silence on their business allies, the gun manufacturers, makes the crime hype suspect.

One could cite chapter and verse to prove the bias of the news magazines and the television networks. The political conservatism of CBS, Time Magazine, the Los Angeles Times and the American Broadcasting Company is not unrelated to their ranking among the nation's top 200 businesses.

Although our messengers employ acute subtlety, their anti-Democratic bias is not hard to detect. Take the Iranian hostage crisis, for example. Now we know Ronald Reagan was elected president by 51 Americans: the 50 hostages and Walter Cronkite.

The respected anchorman's counting of the days the hostages remained captive blasted Jimmy Carter's effectiveness. If you paid close attention you could hear what Cronkite really was saying: "And that's the way it was on this the 351st day of Carter's impotence and inability to free the hostages." That is subliminal trickery at its worst.

Another network, the American Broadcasting Co., is the industry's scourge. Harry Reasoner in his latest book has named his former superiors at ABC and found fault with them, a highly unusual step defying the buddy system prevalent in the network's boardrooms.

A poll taken on the evening of the Carter-Reagan debate proves the network's vacuousness. The critics howled the poll was entirely unscientific and a debate was not presented to answer the question posed in the ABC poll ("who won?") but to enlighten the public.

John J. O'Connor, television critic of the New York Times, has written, "ABC is a lot like Rodney Dangerfield; it gets no respect."

The selectivity and the bias are

(Continued on Page 5)

## Blacks need freedom from the press

By Rafat Habib

Crime has become the No. 1 topic in the media.

Public opinion polls, television commercials and editorialists all are hurling the same slogan at us: Crime is rising. Every kidnapping, murder and rape is seen as an additional sign of the crime wave.

However, somehow the reports of rising crime seem a bit too dramatic. People hear about this murder and that hostage taking, but when they go out they find none of it happening.

Streets now called unsafe, always were. Violent crimes do occur in scattered neighborhoods, but when did they not? Life and property seem neither safer nor more imperiled than before. In fact, the crime wave seems to be what it really is: A media event.

The media, which are adjuncts of big business, report the news — and also make it. We should ponder who our messengers are. The press is the one that should be getting a midnight grilling in a stationhouse basement.

MADELINE MURPHY

## A New Year's Wish

It is harder to watch grandchildren grow into puberty than it is to watch your own children. Grandparents have prerogatives, but not as substitute parents. You have to button your lip and only be there if the cry goes out: "Mom what should I do?"

Things are different now, as they say, "the times they are a-changing." Also it is a time for adolescents to be in limbo.

They have things, games, clubs, activities that increase their self-centeredness, not because they want it that way, but because they have been ignored, shoved aside in the decision making process, as well in their displacement by machines.

No longer is there need for chores, even to get a job — if there were jobs to get — or even to be service oriented. No one in some groups goes to church anymore — so there are fewer youth fellowships, fewer candy stripers, etc.

Yet it also is quite instructive to see them take on problems, as for instance, the stereotypes about them, or to discuss sex, drugs, or family relationships, with frankness bordering on impertinence. Not to say this is all bad, because with such openness (brashness) one can judge what kinds of pressures they are facing; what kinds of peer influence they experience.

This is the time, however, when they cannot stand their parents most of the time. The wail goes out intermittently: "You don't understand me!" ... "You're not listening to me!"

But what can one do as a parent that would be not only beneficial for them, but would also be open enough not to threaten them as authority figures?

There is a fine line between permissiveness and loss of parental control.

But who draws it? Thankfully, this is the time when the grandparent sits and observes, agonizing vicariously, not willing to go back in time. You see, there is nothing the parent can do that will satisfy the wail; that will help them through the confusion set up by biological changes; the demand for equality, though they seem oblivious to the enormous responsibility accompanying this newfound yearning for equality.

And so parents perceive they must be autocratic just to preserve their authority.

Some kids even go so far as to call their parents by their first names — not in our family, but in others that have been observed. This boldness symbolizes "Look at me I'm grown; I'm an adult!" As you observe, you mutter "Not yet, not yet!"

For the parents it is painful to see them get to the point where they ask questions you would rather not answer, even hear. The longing becomes too intense to have things as they used to be.

Unwittingly, also, parents gratefully see society set rigid boundaries for them to remain children, until society is ready to accept them into the market place; unmindful they are postponing dangerously that rude awakening of seeing their young people as they really are — too much leisure without getting them involved in the family business, profession or whatever — home management if need be.

But the humorous side of this discussion is the way in which they learn to care for each other, especially the youngest ones who become pests and annoyances when the older ones would rather lock them up somewhere.

In one instance when the adults had to talk among themselves, the older of the grandchildren — two, were put in charge of the five younger ones — the eldest, the only girl, had sense enough to be absent.

The very youngest were perfect demons, getting into favorite toys and mangling them, manipulating everyone while being outwardly sweet and childlike. The middle ones, at first put out that they had not been given any responsibility, suddenly realized the "big hat" had been put upon the older ones, so they beamed and breathed sighs of relief while devilishly becoming spectators.

Now what were the olders ones to do to keep the youngest out of mischief?

Well, they devised a contest to see which one could look out of the window the longest — the prize being a dime.

Those gullible little rascals stayed at the window, despite the distractions of the middle kids, who now were undermining the authority of the older ones. And believe it or not, the most devilish won the prize ... about 45 minutes later!

In this experience with adolescents during the holidays, it came to mind we have retrenched in our attitudes toward this age group. Particularly is this true when they have lost faith in the system having come through the Nixon and Watergate years of skepticism and cynicism, but not through the social revolution of the Sixties.

We have to take on that awesome job of including them again, not chaufferring them everywhere, because they have got to take risks too. Let us awaken their giving spirits, their generosity, their sensitivity.

Because most seem bored, to do what they think will get them high marks, — a superficial opportunism showing they have lost faith that they matter anymore.

Perhaps we must begin to listen to them without fearing their frankness, their precociousness.

Perhaps we had better talk to them, rather than at them, rather than being too busy to listen. Include them in the family as responsible human beings, letting them know about finances, about jobs, about the anxieties their parents have, about the love they share.

Even with all the television openness, sex education in the public schools, the wave of movies probing a bit into adolescence, perhaps parents of today are letting others do the hard job of informing, encouraging, and tethering the wild spirits who want to test the trends of their times.

Sitting in this seat as grandparent, one thinks how precious they are, how fragile, impressionable and vulnerable they seem. Yet how toughly they hide their concerns almost to the breaking point.

Yet nowhere does there seem to be an earnest desire from their parents to forge the dangerous waters of becoming equal, responsible, becoming confidantes and counselors.

The only way to understand them is to see them as they are and not as one would want them to be. The only way to listen is to stop talking, stop defending, advising, remaining completely silent.

And at times, heaven forbid, admitting you do not know. Maybe both of you — one generation with the other — will try to find the answers, solve the problems, together.

This is my New Year's wish for all of the parents of these brave young people.

PARREN MITCHELL

## Unemployed by design

Since the end of World War II more than 35 years ago, the black rate of unemployment in America always has been twice as high as the rate of unemployment for whites.

In good times and bad, in peaks of national prosperity and in the valleys of recession and depression, black rates of unemployment for all age groups and both sexes always have been at least twice as high as those of whites. Why? The answer to that question is in three parts.

First, despite the passage of civil rights legislation, racism, pure, naked racism, still stands at the hiring gates, as it has stood for the past 35 years, finding a hundred reasons for not hiring a black, but always finding one good reason to hire the white applicant.

There are those who argue black youth are unemployed because of minimum wage requirements. To them I ask, "How do you explain the low rate of white teenage unemployment, white youths are covered under the minimum wage laws for the most part?"

Second, this society has become so automated and robotized that more and more employment opportunities increasingly are limited to skilled technicians and those in skilled service positions.

It is interesting to note by keeping blacks out of certain jobs, we are denied the opportunity to learn these skills on the job, an opportunity freely accorded whites.

In addition, because of the niggardly funded status of black educational institutions, the equipment and staff to teach these skills often is absent. Thus, we are boxed out on both ends.

Third, the present national policy, begun at least four years ago, is to keep unemployment high in order to fight inflation. It is an ill-founded, illogical, disastrous policy which forces blacks to bear a disproportionately high unemployment rate.

I expect this policy to continue for many years because our inflation rate not only is tied to the domestic economy, it also is tied to the international economy.

What then must we do to bring about a meaningful lower black unemployment rate? Although I continue to believe the federal government must be the employer of last resort, I do not believe the present Administration has neither the desire nor the will to address black unemployment.

Therefore, we must make a herculean effort to dramatically accelerate the rate of growth and the number of black-owned businesses and black controlled economic development projects.

Black businesses will hire blacks. Black economic development projects will circulate and retain money in our black communities.

Black businesses will produce black business managers, who almost inevitably will move on to create new black businesses. I have no qualms in saying, "We must buy black."

For the long range, it is critical we establish five regional schools at which every aspect of entrepreneurship is taught.

These schools must have the most modern, up-to-date equipment so our youth will learn how to make the most intricate machine parts, to learn economic theory and practice, and all else required for we, Blacks, to become full producers - and thereby full employers - in the economic system.

Even further long range, we must begin to think about how we can develop and implement a new economic order. All economic systems are in the process of evolving and not one of them is "pure."

For now, we must mount large scale economic boycotts against those corporations, and their subsidiaries which will not hire our people. And we must support our own.

Samuel BANKS

## Black imperatives

The challenges confronting black America at the dawn of a new year are complex, manifold and urgent. By any measure of rational, dispassionate and statistical analysis, 1981 was, in the last decade, a disastrous year for the preponderant number of 31 million black Americans.

The juggernaut of Reaganomics now firmly in place with the general acquiescence and support of the majority white population has had frightful and calamitous consequences for black Americans and the nation's poor.

The severity, scope and deadly ramifications of Reaganomics or supply-side economics have driven the collective backs of black Americans, native Americans, Hispanics and the poor to the edge of the precipice.

The total fiscal deficits projected for 1982 amount to approximately $600 billion or a half-trillion dollars. Not only will President Ronald Reagan be unable to balance the budget, but in the absence of increased productivity, will drive our nation to an unprecedented level of debt.

However, as long as President Reagan and his presidential triumvirate of Edwin Meese III, James A. Baker III and Michael K. Deaver, assisted by the chameleonic David A. Stockman, executive director of the Office of Management and Budget, can divert the attention of the majority white population from their own wretched fiscal and monetary failures, they can continue to steer a clearly indefensible and untenable economic course and blame blacks, minorities and the poor for their failures.

The ancient, invidious and divisibe practice of scapegoating is central to and supportive of the philosophy and practice of the Reagan administration.

In view of the practices of national socio-economic liquidation, exclusion and institutional subordination, black Americans have no choice, as currently is the case of the free trade unionist (i.e., Solidarity) and the Polish people, but to plan and work for our collective survival.

"Black people have no choice but to struggle in every legitimate way to seek relief from the onerous and weighty socio-economic burdens that crush the hopes, dreams and opportunities of more than half of the black population in the United States.

I believe there are 16 urgent imperatives black America must address in 1982 with serious, resoluteness and sagacity:

1. We must continue to believe in the power and majesty of God in human affairs. A spiritual dimension, however one defines or calls his deity, is highly significant in helping one to achieve inner harmony, peace and to engage in a transcendant task.

Our forebears, I believe, as they worked for freedom and social justice, too, had a rich and impregnable spiritual dimension which enabled them to keep moving forward and upward.

2. We must be unyielding in pressing for jobs for black youths and adults. Structural unemployment among black youths hovering around 50 percent in Baltimore and 60 percent in Detroit constitutes a national disgrace.

The unemployment among black adults is approximately 15 percent. As long as these tragic levels of unemployment exist, it is sheer folly to talk about alleviating, in a significant manner, urban crime or deviant behavior.

We must, in cooperation with people of goodwill, practicality and rationality develop socio-economic and political strategies to get jobs for black folk. Black Americans and the poor must not be sacrificed for fanciful and illogical Reaganomics.

3. We must continue to believe in ourselves. A person who does not believe himself or herself has already admitted defeat.

One of the great and positive effects of the 1960 protests and upheavals was the strong emphasis given to a positive and wholesome concept (i.e., "I am black and I am proud," "Black is beautiful") for black youths and adults.

We must work untiringly and unceasingly to curb the current erosion of racial pride and worth.

4. We must be unrelenting in supporting and utilizing the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The ballot is the ultimate power in a democratic society and we must make full the recent bipartisan sponsorship by 61 Senators in the United States Senate for the extensions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, without crippling amendments by the Reagan administration, is a very encouraging development.

Locally, black fraternities, sororities, civic groups and concerned citizens should begin now to register citizens for the 1982 state and gubernatorial elections and 1983 City Council and mayoral elections.

The ballot is the route to political and socio-economic power. The registration and voting emphasis should be clear: EACH ONE REGISTERS ONE AND TAKE ONE TO THE POLLS.

5. We must demand excellence and accountability in public schools. It is a statistical fact blacks, Hispanics and the poor represent the groups poorly served by public schools.

A fallacious and specious view of MORE WITH LESS human and monetary resources will do irremediable and immedicable harm to black, Hispanic and poor youngsters because of a long and enduring back log of unmet social, educational and economic needs.

Additionally, we must hold teachers and administrators responsible for providing the highest quality education for our children. Shoddiness and laxity must not be permitted.

6. We must demand as the United States Housing Act of 1949 and subsequent federal legislation require decent, safe and sanitary housing for all citizens.

It is unconscionable that in most of our urban centers, Baltimore included, adequate housing is not available for close to a third of the total populations of each urban center.

7. We must work unremittingly to develop a sense of community and concern for each other. While it is true hostile and institutional factors militate against a sense of oneness, we must continue to care for and to support each other.

Refuse to become a part of the conspiracy of silence or the voiceless majority.

8. We must insist on the highest quality of representation in local, state and national legislative bodies. The key to our elected officials receiving our support and maintaining themselves in office must be their delivery of needed services; not empty rhetoric.

The perpetual dissemblers sycophants, toadies and ineffectual must be removed from office or any position of influence. Their political track records should determine our support.

9. We must insist on the highest quality of health care for all Americans. Health care for black Americans and the poor continues to be marginal and inadequate. We must work through our elected officials and community groups to deliver better health care to all.

10. We must become better informed on vital local, state, national and international issues. In this conjunction, we must not rely on the electronic media, as most Americans currently do, but immersing ourselves in reading newspapers, books and periodicals.

The local libraries can supply these materials if your budget does not permit a purchase. The reading habit also will be excellent for your children and adults. Read a newspaper daily and at least four books a year.

11. We must insist local and national media portray the problems and accomplishments of our people. Positive and substantive media programming, locally and nationally, is sorely deficient.

Write or call radio and television stations to let them know your interests, concerns and reactions to particular programs. Your opinion can make a difference as a consumer.

12. We must, locally and nationally, overcome the collective fear of the white majority society. I believe this is essential to accepting and achieving the 11 other imperatives which I have adumbrated.

We must, in short, be ourselves. Too many black Americans spend too much time trying to prove their fundamental humanity and worth to white Americans. All of the 4.7 billion people, who inherit Earth have basic worth and value.

It is pointless to attempt to prove that which is given by God and intrinsic to all life. Our energies must be mobilized and utlized in working to improve the total quality of life for all.

We must summon the will and inner resources necessary to overcome the crippling and enervating psychosis of defeatism which afflicts too many black Americans at all levels (i.e., professional, skilled and unskilled).

13. Black professionals and academicians as they pursue their intellectual interests and the pursuit of truth, must become more involved in pragmatic and visceral citizenship responsibilities.

Helping the masses our people to surmount socio-economic and political hurdles.

14. We must identify with and become involved with Mother Africa and Third World countries now struggling to overcome residual and lingering effects of international colonialism and oppression and suppression.

The continued economic, social and political development of these countries will help us in our continuing struggle here in the United States to gain full political, economic and social justice.

15. We must redouble our efforts in developing new strategies necessary to increase our corporate wealth, ownership of land and stocks and expansion of the miniscule pool of astute and adroit black entrepreneurs.

In a private enterprise system, the ownership, production and distribution of goods and services represent power. We need and should strategize for acquiring a greater share of the Gross National Products of our nation which exceeds $2 trillion.

16. Black ministers and congregations must make a stronger effort to transcend the cult of personality and zealous accentuation of the "life over yonder" and utilize their resources, human and monetary, and building facilities to help the poor and destitute to endure the blistering and dispiriting conditions which confront them here.

Ministers and their congregations, too, have a responsibility, as is indicative of education and health, to minister to the whole person.

17. A determined and concentrated effort must be made to increase the number of able and effective black elected officials. Blacks represent only one-half of one percent of the 525,000 elected officials in our nation. There is much work to be done.

18. We must be assiduous and tenacious in our efforts to keep Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s imperishable and universal dream alive.

On this the 53rd anniversary of his birth in Atlanta, Ga. and the 14th year of his cruel assassination, we must continue to insist the Congress declare a national holiday in his honor.

You, too, can support his effort by joining Stevie Wonder and thousands of concerned citizens at the Washington Monument Friday, Jan. 15, 1982 in a giant rally in support of a national holiday for Dr. King. I hope to see you there.

In spite of the vexations, problems, vicissitudes and difficulties, it still is an exciting time to be alive and facing the challenges and opportunities of a new year.

I challenge you, amidst the euphoric and hopeful beginnings of a new year, to give my 18 imperatives a try.

The Chinese philosopher, Lao Tse, reminds us:

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." I challenge you to step out and act to elevate the quality of life in 1982 and beyond.

May you and your families and friends have a most joyous, tranquil and fruitful New Year. SURSUM CORDA, Brothers and Sisters: Lift up your hearts.

## Questions that need answers

It is my opinion, we need a public debate on all news media, and we need it right now.

I'd be most appreciative if you would please answer some of my questions.

Demographers says that there is no method of curtailing population growth within 10 years. With great good fortune, and world effort, a little might just conceivably be done in 20 or 30 years. They called on the agronomists, but a large proportion of them make exactly the same demand in reverse. Agronomy is the science of increased crop production.

Every species of animals naturally multiply in proportion to the means of their subsistence, and no species can ever multiply beyond it.

According to the forecast the famines will begin in the 1980s.

To demographers and economists, children under 15 and persons age 65 and over constitute the "dependent" age groups. These groups usually are not in the labor force, they are economically unproductive.

WILLIAM A. PIGGIE

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

## For all we know

EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

WOMAN INC. held its third annual tree - trimming ceremony and presented the pediatric ward of Provident Hospital a 19 - inch TV for in - patient use.

The tree was decorated with dazzling ornaments and candy canes.

In the past, WOMAN has donated gifts of slippers and mittens for all patients, crib mobiles and one of two emergency crash carts, (the second is to be donated at its 4th annual luncheon.)

WOMAN officers are Charlene Wicks, secretary; Carol Johnson, assistant secretary; Phyliss Conaway, chairman of program committee; Geraldine Jackson, assistant treasurer; Jennifer Bennett,

Vice President; Mark Conaway, founder and president is also a candidate for the office of "Register of Wills" in September, 1982.

The nurse who received the TV and warranty for Dr. Quivers was Mrs. Anne Massey, R.N., along with four patients on the pediatric ward.

Members of WOMAN are Sheila Shelton, executive president; Marlene Jackson, executive vice president; Sara Macklin, executive secretary; Anne Cook, treasurer; Rosalyn Burton, parliamentarian; Parthenia Oliver, associate member; Patricia Bulluck, Eve Jones, Vivian Ferguson, and Bennie Keene.

HUNTER COLLEGE Alumni Asso., Baltimore Chapter, has scheduled an informal afternoon for Sat., Jan. 9 at 1:30 p.m. with all Hunter alumni in the area invited. For info call Evelyn Morgan, 664 - 1692 or Joan Plapinger, 655 - 2665. Rosalyn Round is vice - president.

MONDAY, Jan. 4, 12 noon, is the time set for the installation services for the new officers and inauguration of Rev. Dr. William E. Johnson, the newly elected president, the Baptist Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity.

The impressive rites will take place at Dr. Johnson's Union Baptist Church, 105 Main St., Turner Station. Dinner is served at 2 p.m.

JANUARY DATES already set through February include these important happenings:

JAN. 15 — Martin Luther King's birthday — witnesses many meetings nationwide to continue the fight to have this date made a national holiday. One of the local crusaders is Mary Carter Smith. Contact her: P.O. Box 11484, Baltimore, 21239 so that you may take part.

JAN. 13
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE 368TH YEAR of the Maryland General Assembly opens Wednesday Jan. 13 to begin the 90 - day session for the making of the laws for all citizens of the state.

AMONG THE LAW MAKERS are your own five black senators (Dr. Aris T. Allen, the GOP senator, left to join the Reagan folks in DC) and our 14 members of the House of Delegates.

AT 10 A.M. the impressive ceremonies begin at the State House in Annapolis. The first General Assembly opened in January, 1777.

THIS HISTORIC EVENT of 1982 is vitally important to us as black citizens due to the Reagan cutbacks which have left us greatly in need.

JAN. 12, 8:30 a.m. is the time Del. Frank M. Conaway has set for the first session our Legislative Black Caucus. The highly important meeting will determine the agenda which our legislators will follow to hopefully get what we need.

HIGHLIGHT includes emphasis on Crime and Reapportionment.

As to redistricting, Del. Conaway assures the Caucus will try to have Morgan Park and Morgan State University moved into a Legislative District that is predominately black.

LEADING THAT EFFORT is Del. John Douglass, chairman of the Caucus Subcommittee on Reapportionment, who has already made a formal protest on behalf of the Caucus on the Morgan U area situation.

A LETTER from our Rubye Gill outlines the danger suspected gerrymandering present to Morgan U. by placing the area in a district which is 80 percent of another racial group.

Mrs. Gill notes that the proposed Legislative District No. 47, the 39 - 90 district, appears to protect one delegate and dilutes Morgan's immediate community representation, "a group which has demonstrated little or no interest in preserving the institution."

MORE WILL COME on this situation but meantime write or call Chairperson Rubye's group, Morgan's Interested Citizens: Dr. Gwendolyn J. Cooke, MSU Alumni and Mrs. Rubye Gill, Religion and Race, Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church.

JAN. 13, 9 a.m. is the time when the Democratic Caucus will meet in Annapolis to prepare for the General Assembly. The Speaker of the House will be elected along with other officers. Del. Ben Cardin is present speaker. None of the officers is black. (We should get together on that).

GOV. HUGHES who has already started campaigning hard to become reelected governor of Maryland, will give his State of the State message at a later date.

JAN. 15, MLK BD, will witness some sort of ceremony in Annapolis BUT, Baltimore alone is the place which observes the whole day as a holiday for EVERYBODY. Everyone is legally off that day, the MLK Birthday. Hundreds of celebrations are scheduled.

EVERY YEAR the most impressive and well - planned is at Social Security Woodlawn, a great, big occasion, with all US government involved. Dr. Aris T. Allen has that big job there in administration.

JAN. 19 is the date set for Del. Conaway and the Black Caucus to entertain at a luncheon to hear what the black clergymen want done during the General Assembly.

Coordinators of the area pastors are Rev. Drs. Alfred A.C.D. Vaughn and Marion Bascom.

ANNAPOLIS
PHONE NUMBERS

You will want to clip this list out for future reference since you need to have impact during the Maryland General Assembly's 90 - day session. (All toll - free numbers)

LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS — 269 - 6186 - Sharon Spriggs, executive director.

DEL. CONAWAY - 841-3277 (Office)

SEN. CLARENCE W. BLOUNT (D - 41), 841 - 3697

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## Blacks need freedom from the press

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hurting the political process. Candidates are not just reported about, but made or broken by the press. John Anderson's meteoric rise proves the point.

The media rushed to acclaim him as a "liberal" savior in a bohum election year. Of course the victim was a Democrat, Carter, because Anderson took many more votes from him than from Reagan.

Anderson was one of about 10 Republican candidates when he entered the presidential race July 1979. For six months nothing happened. Then the dam burst.

Mike Wallace, interviewing Anderson on "60 Minutes," the CBS news magazine program, called him "the best among the three candidates," a phase that now seems ridiculous. The media attributed such wisdom to Anderson that it makes us wonder why he was not widely known before 1979.

And why was this sage, having served the purpose of hurting Carter's candidacy, become so scarce since then? Small wonder Carter refused to debate Anderson, calling him "a creation of the media."

Time magazine, another media luminary, long has been noted for its colorful prose and whimsy, not for its objectivity. Time's hugh pretensions for scholarship notwithstanding, it essentially is a cute rehash of news informed people may have read in the New York Times days ago.

Time's clientele generally is the same as that of the Readers Digest: rural America, the Bible Belt and the conservative West.

It is instructive to see what the pro-Republican media do not report. Their arbitrary choice of how to play or ignore news affects our thinking and lives.

Take for example, the telephonic and telegraphic deluge that hit the United States Congress on the eve of that body's vote on President Reagan's proposed budget cuts last spring.

The Capitol had never seen anything like it. The campaign was so massive it prompted Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., the House speaker, to say Exxon and IBM had let their switchboards be used by Reaganomics partisans. All of this was widely reported.

What was not reported was a startling revelation by Albert Hunt, correspondent for the Wall Street Journal. Hunt, appearing on the Washington Week in Review television program, said, "when the congressional aides asked the callers, 'What do you like about the Reagan budget cuts?' the callers were unable to specify any item in the Reagan plan. The callers could only say, 'Just vote for it.' "

Were the press truly objective, investigative reporters would have been hunting the callers to find out if they had the resources for the long-distance calls. However, there was no media follow-up of this extraordinary telephonic blitz.

Even the entente of detachment that normally covers news reporters is being revoked with hardly a word of complaint from anyone.

Diane Sawyer, a reputed paramour of Ronald Ziegler and an avowed friend of Richard M. Nixon, has become a CBS broadcaster. Imagine the shrieks that would have greeted Jody Powell's appointment to the same job.

More astounding is the misreporting about the normally sacrosanct public opinion polls. In this case, the bias is shown in the phraseology of the questions asked.

The media have widely reported the respondents say they are concerned about crime. They certainly do — if asked the question: "Are you concerned about crime?" But it is a quite different story if, instead they are asked to name their concerns.

What is not being reported is if people are asked, "What issues are you concerned about?" crime receives a low rating. Respondents then name the economy, the Soviet threat, political corruption and even the ecology ahead of crime.

Only twice in the history of Time and Newsweek magazines have both had the same subject on the cover of the same week. The first time the covers featured Henry Luce, founder of Time, right after his death.

The second time was last spring, when both led with a crime story showing a pointed gun on the cover.

This astonishing coincidence could not have been more opportune for the Reagan administration, which then was launching its program for massive cuts in social spendings. The public generally perceives the criminal to be a black man. Since many social programs help the blacks, this media ado about crime was aimed to get Reaganomics off the hook.

As for the fundamental question, no one knows whether crime is increasing or decreasing. Law enforcement officials estimate half of all crime goes unreported. So we do not know whether the crime rate is up or, down.

All we know is reported crime has increased, but this is due to such factors as better reporting methods and women's liberation, which has emboldened rape victims to come forth.

Meanwhile, the honeymoon continues. Every report of crimes featuring blacks and polls showing rise in out-of-wedlock births probably causes champagne cork popping in the Lincoln Room.

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