—Christmas

(Continued from Page 1)

Blues begin to build and they know, what will go down. Gladys G. is a grandmother. She is 73 and lives in a home for senior citizens. She has 11 grandchildren.

"I stopped celebrating Christmas several years ago. I could not keep it up. Made me think of too many things I want to forget. My children are all grown. Most of them live out of town," she says sadly.

She was married for 43 years. Her husband died a few years ago and a son was tragically killed two years ago. "I think about them more about now. I miss them more, too."

Christmas does not cheer Gladys. It depresses her severely.

According to Dr. Jay Phillips, Director of Out Patient Services for the Walter P. Carter Mental Health Center, this is a normal reaction for many at holiday time. Mental depression is at the base of the Christmas Blues.

"There is definitely a "holiday reaction' Christmas more than any other holiday brings to bear upon people in this culture."

He says the word culture as if it held some particular clue to the phenomenon he has just described. "People become more symptomatic. Painful memories, emotional trauma, feelings of loss and deprivation, are experienced more acutely at this time of year."

Dr. Phillips, a youthful looking, 35 year old, is quick to add that he is not speaking of material deprivation. "Both rich and poor experience this emotional traumatisation because it is based upon emotional needs and not material ones."

Dr. Norman Bradford looks more like a guru than an associate professor of psychology. He has worked for the University of Maryland's Psychiatric Institute for more years than he, laughingly, cares to remember.

Dr. Bradford considers himself a spiritual psychologist and though his conversation is peppered with the usual trade jargon, his emphasis is on Christ and the Virgin Mary and love.

"Christmas is a great paradox. At the same time that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, people experience more manic-depressive episodes, attempt and succeed at more suicides, know more anger, disappointment and frustration than at any other time."

Shaking his head with an ironic smile playing across his face he adds that the paradox is also historical, King Herod murdered babies when Jesus was born.

"People are reminded more of their search for emotional and spiritual connections at this time of year. They are looking for love and inner harmony.

"Those who have a realistic or spiritual outlook about Christmas do much better at surviving the holidays."

Christmas may indeed be the paradox stated by Dr. Bradford but many people manage to escape its negative aspects.

Building on the spiritual expression of Christmas, one Baltimore family pooled their resources for a three month period this year and then gave out baskets to the needy.

They are not well-to-do and some of them are unemployed, but as their spokesman stated, "It makes us feel so good to help others, we forget about our needs. We get real pleasure from this. If the people we do it for knew how much pleasure we get they would make us pay for it."

They have whipped the holiday blues, or perhaps you would rather employ the method used by a 37 year old clerk typist. Three years ago, she sat down with her three children and told them the truth.

"I got tired of being a fool for the toy stores and the merchants. Here I was working myself to death, not paying bills and owing money until the next Christmas so that I could lie to my kids about a little white man giving them gifts."

Her solution was to tell them about the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ, and about the way merchants raised prices on items just for Christmas.

"I just told them that we could not celebrate Christmas like that anymore; that I could not afford it. They looked hurt." She reflects somewhat sadly upon her decision but then adds with a mischievous grin, "I get them any toy I can afford after the prices go down. Now I can enjoy Christmas with them."

Somewhere in the Bible it says "that when I would do good, evil is also present."

It would seem that this is even with Christmas, as law enforcement officials, doctors of the mind and just plain folk will attest.

The ecstasy and the agony of Christmas is a two headed coin we flip each year and either it lands on the light side or the dark of the "Force."

Blue Christmas, bright Christmas? Mental health authorities suggest that most of us are going to have our share of both and no one is immune from suffering depression or experiencing joy.

Political re-cap

(Continued from Page 1)

Council President after the indictment, sentencing and resignation of former Council President Wally Orlinsky.

He now is serving a jail term at a Pennsylvania federal prison.

An Eastside associate of Burns on the Council, Nathan Irby, decided he wanted to change his political alliances. Irby mounted a successful campaign against his former political team mate, Sen. Robert Douglass, in the 45th legislative district.

Newcomers Edwin Johnson and Nathaniel McFadden replaced Burns and Irby in their respective Council seats.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th, turned back the bid for his Congressional office made by Elizabeth Gray, a Coppin State College professor.

In the General Assembly, such veteran legislators as Verda Welcome and Walter Dean were defeated in their attempts to return to Annapolis.

1982 was the year that saw Frank Conaway, who had professed interest in Mrs. Welcome's seat, bow out of that Senate race only to lose his bid to return to Annapolis as a Delegate.

Black politicians made giant strides and in some cases historical firsts in terms of power and leadership roles in the General Assembly.

Sen. Clarence Blount, D-41st, who succeeded Conaway as chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, was appointed to Majority Whip in the State Senate. He also was named vice chairman of the Budget and Taxation Committee.

Other Senate chairmanships and vice chairmanships went to Clarence Mitchell III, D-39th, and Tommie Broadwater, D-25th.

Delegates Larry Young, D-39th, and Howard P. Rawlings, D-40th, were selected to head House committees and subcommittees.

New faces in the House of Delegates will include former City Councilwoman Mary B. Adams, Ralph Hughes, Nathaniel Oaks and former television newsman, Curtis Anderson.

Some political observers called black voter turn-out in 1982 the awakening of a sleeping giant as black Baltimore came to the polls in droves for the primary and general elections.

Swept into office as a result were Kurt Schmoke, who defeated incumbent William Swisher in the race for State's Attorney and Saundra Banks who now is the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Mary Conaway, a former city school teacher, was declared Register of Wills elect after a recount of votes in the primary election decisively proved her the winner over incumbent Patrick Duffy in the race for that office.

Kenneth Johnson, a veteran civil rights lawyer, now takes his place on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. Johnson squeaked through the primary and finished strong in the general election.

The 1982 political season is over and now eyes will be focused on the City Council races of 1983. Based on the recent past, the elections this spring should be as exciting as those of 1982 if the sleeping giant is finally and fully awakened.

READ THE AFRO EVERY TUESDAY & FRIDAY

Dudley Gross

Funeral services for Dudley L. Gross were Monday, Dec. 27, at the William C. March Funeral Home. Burial was the same day at Maryland Veterans Cemetery.

Mr. Gross died Sunday, Dec. 19. He was about 43.

Born in Annapolis in 1939, Mr. Gross was the son of George and Annie Gross. He attended Bates High School and after graduation served in the U.S. Air Force for six years.

He worked at the Crownsville State Hospital for 14 years as a nursing service employee after leaving the service. Mr. Gross later worked for the Spring Grove State Hospital for five years.

Leaving the nursing field after 19 years of service, he went into the corrections system.

Mr. Gross was a member of the Male Chorus of the Asbury Methodist Church. He also attended the Community College of Baltimore.

He enjoyed reading, music and sports.

Mr. Gross is survived by his wife, Florene; children, Gerald, Gerard, Stephanie, Larry, June, Tyrone and Stefan; four sisters, Alice Sharps, Sally Jones and Charlotte Dorsey.

He also is survived by three brothers, Charles Sharps, Delbert Sharps and William Reginald Gross.

Mrs. Dorothy Ballard

Funeral services for Dorothy Taylor Ballard were Thursday, Dec. 23, at the First Baptist Church of Cherry Hill. Burial was the following day at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Ballard, 32, was born Dec. 15, 1950 in Bertie County, Windsor, N.C. She was the daughter of David and Georgia Taylor.

She attended Bertie County public schools. She moved to Baltimore in her early 20s and joined the First Baptist Church of Cherry Hill.

Mrs. Ballard died Monday, Dec. 20, after a brief illness.

She married Anthony Wayne Ballard on April 15, 1977.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Ballard also is survived by her parents; a sister, Bonnie Taylor and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Jeter, of Baltimore.

By the way...

By Joe Black

Black people are endeavoring to hold their heads above water as the tidal wave of a depressed economy continues to surround them. Yet when we call for help it seems as though we are asked to accept rhetoric as our life preservers. That's a fact.

However, we must share the blame because through the years, too many of us have been content to sit back and let others do all of the talking for us. It's understandable why . . . some of you fear being criticized. But we must recognize that sometimes the people, whom we let talk, are merely seeking popularity through the manipulation of emotions. I'm talking about those people who spend all of their time shouting racism and Reaganomics, but never project a solution to our woes. We must wake up and let them know that rhetoric and semantics won't solve our problems.

It's time for us to stop sitting around letting others lead us down the path to nowhere. If they are going to speak for us then they should have something to say. As Rev. Jesse Jackson when he articulates:

"We must put dignity over dollars and emancipation over entertainment. It is better to boycott with dignity, then to sing and dance in shame."

Stand up! Black Americans and begin to think, for as Malcolm X said in a speech:

"If you don't think for yourself, if you don't see for yourself, then you will end up hating your friends and loving your enemies."

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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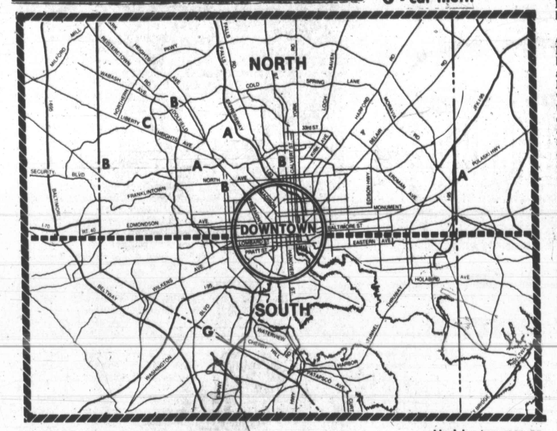

Crime report

Since the Christmas weekend, the Baltimore City Police Department has reported an increase in the number of crimes committed throughout the city.

The worse hit areas seem to be the Northwestern and Southwestern police districts. Police reported fewer crimes in the Western district.

Incidences of burglary, auto theft and larceny were a major trend during this week, with burglary being the most reported crime in the four police districts.

There also were six more reported cases of assault, and one reported case of rape. Armed robbery also has increased since the Christmas holiday.

The reported cases of burglary usually were forced break-ins. Police said the burglar would either pry or remove a screen or break a window to gain entrance into a home.

According to police spokesman, it is important that residents pay special attention in making sure their homes are safe and secure.

The following crimes were committed Dec. 28 and 29 in the Northwestern, Western, Southwestern, and Central police districts.

Northwestern

Police said they had no suspects in a burglary committed on the 4,000 block of Penhurst Ave. Taken in the incident were a radio and television. Police said a key may have been used to gain entry.

Another burglary occurred in the 4,000 block of Newhurst Ave. Suspects broke off the lock. Taken were wooden candle holders.

Andre Jones, of the 4,000 block of Reisterstown Rd., told police he was assaulted and robbed on Dolfield Ave. by two men approximately 19 - 20 years old. The suspects pointed a gun at the victim and then struck him. No suspects have been arrested in the incident, police said.

Western

Police said there was a burglary in the 2800 clock of McCulloh St. Suspects forced open the front door and escaped with a television. No arrest have been made.

Another burglary occurred in the 2200 block of Eutaw St. Thieves entered through a window.

A business in the 1600 block of North Ave. was burglarized. Police said a TV was taken.

Southwestern

According to police, Joseph Beasley, of the 700 block of North Ave., was shot while standing on the corner when a car stopped and two men got out.

One of the men shot the victim in the buttocks. There have been no arrests in that incident.

Entering through an open kitchen door, thieves escaped with an unknown amount of property from a house in the 3000 block of Westwood Ave.

In a larceny of a house in the 3700 block of Winterbourne Rd., a suspect was arrested in a victim's home when the suspect stole a camera valued at $180.

Wayne T. Hegwood of the 1800 block Highview St. N.C., told police that when he left his truck on Hollins St., two men approached him. One man produced a gun, and the other went through his pockets. No arrests have been made.

A 1974 Ford sedan stolen from Monroe Keith, of the 100 block of Upmanor, was recovered by police. Three juveniles were arrested.

Central

Dorothy Miller, of the 1500 block of Parks Ave., told police that she and her boyfriend were robbed by two men armed with handguns. No suspects in the incident, police said.

Police said they had no suspects in a rape that occurred in the 1900 block of Eutaw Pl. The woman was raped at gunpoint. The identity of the attacker is unknown at this time.

In a burglary in the 1600 block of Brone Ave., police said burglars removed screen and stole a television.

Another burglary occurred in the 1000 of Guilford. The thieves pryed open the front door and escaped with 400 in cash.

Argument ends in death

Police said a 22-year-old East Baltimore man was stabbed to death following an argument early Wednesday in the 3400 block of Ravenwood Rd.

Dead is Michael R. Allen, of the 2000 block of East Fayette St.

Arrested and charged with Allen's murder is Gearie Bowman, 33, of the 3400 block of Ravenwood, police spokesman Sgt. Mike Bass told the AFRO.

At AFRO presstime, Bowman was being held at the Northern Police District and was charged with murder and deadly weapon.

Bass said apparently Allen, Bowman and an unidentified third man were at Allen's home around 3:15 a.m. Wednesday. An argument erupted between the men, who later began fighting.

Suspect arrested in rapes of South Baltimore woman and child

Baltimore City Police have arrested a suspect, in the Tuesday morning rape of a South Baltimore woman and her 11-year-old daughter.

Sgt. Mike Bass told the AFRO that George Fortune, 18, of the 1100 block of Orleans, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 29, and charged with auto theft, escape, two counts of rape, two counts of burglary, assault with attempt to murder, deadly weapon, and armed assault and robbery.

Bass said that Fortune was being held at the Eastern Police District without bond and faced a bail review hearing Thursday.

Fortune most recently had lived at 101 S. Mount St., at a half-way house called Dimis House, Bass said. He was sent there to serve a 15-month sentence for auto theft on Nov. 16.

Bass said Fortune escaped from the half-way house a day later on Nov. 17.

Fortune was linked to a rape that occurred in the 4900 block of Clifton Ave., Bass said.

According to the police, the incident began about 6 a.m. on Dec. 28, when a man jimmied the lock of a sliding glass door in the woman's living room. She and her daughter were asleep in a second-floor bedroom of the house.

The woman awoke and found the suspect in her bedroom, police said. The man demanded money from the woman and ordered her to undress.

During this, the child awoke and was ordered to sit on the bed while the suspect raped the child's mother, according to a police report.

After the rape and after the suspect had taken about $95 from the woman's purse, the suspect raped the child, police said.

The child screamed and the woman began struggling with the suspect, who pulled a knife and stabbed the woman once in the back and on her arms.

The victims were taken to the University of Maryland Hospital, where the woman was listed in stable condition. The child was treated and released to relatives, police said.

Bass credited luck and good detective work by Det. Sharon Marr, who was assigned to the rape case.

Marr was able to link the rape and robbery with a burglary that occured in the 4900 block of Clifton Ave. the same morning, Bass said. The burglar entered the two homes in a similar manner, he said.

The events preceding Fortune's arrest began about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, Bass said.

Eastern District uniformed police officers responded to a call in the 800 block of Sterling St. When they arrived, they found a man asleep behind the wheel of a parked car, Bass said.

A check of the vehicle determined it had been stolen between 2 and 6 a.m. the same morning from an address a few blocks from where the burglaries and rapes occurred on Clifton.

Fortune was arrested and charged with stolen auto, Bass said. He later gave police an identification card bearing a false name. Officers, however, learned his true identity and discovered he was an escapee from Dimis House.

The uniform officers alerted the Escape and Apprehension unit and told the officers of that unit that the ID Fortune had given them had a Clifton Ave. address.

The unit in turn passed the information to Det. Marr, who previously had alerted the Escape and Apprehension and other units about her suspect in the rape case.

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An Open Letter of Invitation To Our Community

Dear Lovers of Freedom,

This comes to cordially invite our community to share in the celebration of Jubilee Day on Sunday, January 2, 1983, at the historic Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, corner Druid Hill and Lanvale Street at 2:30 P.M.

Jubilee Day is the time we celebrate our Passover from slavery to the continuing struggle for freedom and Justice to enter the Market Place where economic Justice becomes a fact rather than a theory.

This will be a time to gather families, especially our youth, to recount with them the "meaning of the stones in the wilderness."

This will be a time to demonstrate our formidable gains by assembling our Black judges, legislators, City councilpersons, delegates, neighborhood leaders and clergy to "lay by in store as God has prospered us "through the sustained pressures of the NAACP across the years.

Our speaker will be Dr. James Cheek, President of Howard University. You may wish to invite a group in which you hold membership to assemble corporately to hear his message.

Please let us see you upon receipt of this urgent and cordial invitation to make JUBILEE DAY 1983 a strong and memorable witness to the Maryland Community that the NAACP remains a viable force and that continued efforts to wrest elusive benefits of citizenship are to be expected throughout the New Year.

Remember, "...be careful not to forget the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." Deuteronomy 6:12 NEB.

Sincerely yours,

Marion C. Bascom

Marion C. Bascom

P.S. It is critical that we fill every pew and space in Bethel Church on Sunday, January 2nd. "We need each other in this ever continuing struggle."