Baltimore Afro-American
PAGE 4 DECEMBER 10, 1983

Founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City, Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher (1922-1967).

OPINION

AFRO's Mrs. Santa Needs YOU

Since its founding 92 years ago, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN has encouraged its readers to help the less fortunate. The Mrs. Santa program, initiated 35 years ago, follows a tradition established by this newspaper's founder. Names and addresses of the needy are not made public. Appeals are listed by numbers, providing dignity to all, no matter their station in life.

This year, Mrs. Santa reports the need for help at Christmas, is greater than ever. Letters appealing for help have been assigned case numbers and have been printed on Mrs,. Santa's page twice a week since Thanksgiving. To aid these families, Mrs. Santa seeks to raise $20,000 by December 17. Already, a number of groups and individuals have made generous donations, but more monies are needed NOW!

Mrs. Santa will use contributions to buy food baskets to be delivered by the Maryland National Guard in time for Christmas. Food coupons will be purchased and mailed to other families referred by AFRO Clean Block captains and city agencies. Additionally, Mrs. Santa has available flowers crocheted by senior citizens and other volunteers, for just $1 each. And she is accepting good, used toys and clean clothes in her store where families may select items they cannot afford to buy.

Hurry. There is still time for YOU to give to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Send, or bring, your check, or money order to Mrs. Santa, AFRO Charities, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland, 21201. You may also volunteer your time in Mrs., Santa's office and/or store.

Please help the AFRO's Mrs. Santa make Christmas happy for deserving families.

An example of negativism

The currently running series in the Evening Sun about the so-called disintegration of the black family is disturbing, not for its content, since the statistics cited are in the public record, but because its context and emphasis are almost entirely negative.

This newspaper recently ran a two-part series on adolescent pregnancy, which cited statistics but also put the single parent black families in proper perspective in regard to society in general.

If the Sun wanted to get the full story it should have placed the problem in its proper historical context. The black family has been under attack since the inception of the slave trade.

Its viability as a functioning, self-supporting unit has been limited by physical terror and economic strangulation. Add to this no education, essentially during slavery and inferior education after slavery.

If the Sun wanted to do a comprehensive story, it could have interviewed the many families that are separated, where the father still interacts with his children, or where the father is rearing the children alone.

The emphasis of the series has been extremely negative and it has catered to the worst stereotypes imaginable. It has singled out women living in the most abject conditions, and men who are for the most part irresponsible. It is highly unlikely that these people are representative of the majority of black families. Where are the others?

If one were inclined to think in a biased manner, the conclusion could be drawn that this was an example of blatant racism. An unbiased observer would conclude that this series is an example of unconscious, institutional racism, a much more dangerous kind.

Schaefer Back To School No. 480

Mayor William Donald Schaefer returned to his alma mater, City College, this week. It was the first time the city's chief executive has been inaugurated for a fourth consecutive term, and the first time the ceremony has been held in a public school auditorium.

College for City is a misnomer. Actually, it is the 144-year-old Senior High School No. 480, located in the 3200 block of the Alameda, near Memorial Stadium, in Northeast Baltimore.

But it was good public relations to hold the inauguration there, not only because it emphasized Schaefer's commitment to public schools, but also because it gave the public an opportunity to see what a difference a day makes.

For example: When Schaefer graduated from City in 1939, it was a public school for white males only. Today, its student body of 1,262 is 60 per cent black. Females, who have been enrolled since 1978, constitute 55 percent of the student population.

City's principal, Dr. Solomon Lausch, heads an integrated faculty, including a black assistant principal, Mrs. Jean Johnson.

Participating in the ceremony were two black women role models. Alice G. Pinderhughes, the school superintendent, who attended public schools here in her hometown when schools were segregated, and Baltimore Circuit Court Clerk Saundra E. Banks, who administered the oath to Schaefer and who was not born when he attended City.

Impressive inaugural participant, City's Student Council President, Bernard James, presided with great poise, causing many in the audience to observe he showed potential for leadership, maybe the next mayor of Baltimore. This may not be farfetched. Wilson Goode, speaking at Morgan State University recently recalled his graduation speaker ther predicted some in the class would be the next mayors of our cities. Goode was inaugurated mayor of Philadelphia last month.

If Mayor Schaefer implements his announced support of public education by providing needed funds for facilities and projects, his last four years in office will go down in history because today's public school students, predominantly black, will be better prepared to enter institutions of higher learning and to assume leadership roles, reflecting credit on our city and the Schaefer Administration.

Compassion for Colts

The Colts are in Denver this weekend where the prospect of victory is not encouraging, what with the Broncos enjoying a late surge that took them to an easy win over Cleveland and into second place in the Western Division of the NFL last Sunday.

Next Sunday, Baltimore completes its season against the Houston Oilers, a contest that will be staged before a final home audience at Memorial Stadium.

The year for the Colts and their fans has produced an admixture of fun and frustration. Unexpected victories have been sandwiched between disappointing defeats. But the team has endured. The public, for the most part, has shown tolerance.

Both are to be commended.

It has been an extremely difficult transition for Baltimoreans to sink from the euphoria of a World Series basbeall triumph to the desperation of struggle in football.

But to the credit of our town's emotional resilience, the transition has been accomplished.

It could be because Baltimoreans have good memories. They recall the years when Baltimore football went from championship years to 2-12 seasons, and from Super Bowl finishes to 6-6, then eventually to complete seasons without a single victory.

Brighter times followed then. They will come again. Only patience is needed.

Parren J. MITCHELL

The drums of War

Eight more Marines killed. Two American Aircraft shot down. Despite President Reagan's statements to the contrary, the war in Lebanon has escalated.

Slowly, inexorably, America is becoming quagmired into another Vietnam type situation, in the same fashion that the Soviet Union is now mired into an endless war in Afghanistan.

Shortly after Reagan committed American troops to Lebanon, he is reported to have said, "This will break the Vietnam syndrome which is a part of the American mind." I felt a chill when I read that because if indeed the President really believed the words he said, he would be forced into additional actions to test the will of the American people, to be completely assured that the "Vietnam syndrome" had been broken.

He apparently gained that assurance when the invasion of Grenada was applauded by a large number of Americans. The invasion, which violated the Constitution and existing treaties, was not necessary. Hours of briefings on the Grenada invasion have convinced me that the American students at the Second School Building were not reached until two days after the invasion took place. Those briefings also convinced me that the invasion was launched long before all diplomatic options had been exhausted.

Nevertheless, the assault on Grenada was commenced, and, according to Reagan, America had again demostrated its resolve to fight communism everywhere. In the 1960's and 70's, there was a consensus in this nation that the United States could not play policeman for the world, rushing from this point to that point with our display of military force. It would seem that in attempting to break the American anti-Vietnam syndrome, Reagan is simultaneously seeking to break that consensus.

Surely, the American Naval presence off the coast of Central America is symbolic of the President's desire to attempt to play policeman for the world. By now, this nation should have learned that it cannot impose its will, its form of government, or its economic system on other nations by imposing military force. In Korea and Vietnam, we achieved the dubious distinction of partitioning one nation into two. Will Lebanon be similarly partitioned into North-South or East-West Lebanons?

Now, tragically, the war in Lebanon has been escalated. More planes will be shot down, more military equipment will be destroyed, and more young men will die.

I opposed the sending of troops to Grenada. I urgently propose that we immediately withdraw all military personnel and Naval vessels from that area. They cannot keep the peace in that region, nor can they win a conventional war in that region. It's strange to see liberal Parren Mitchell and conservative Senator Barry Goldwater in agreement on any issue, but we do agree on this one—the immediate and complete withdrawal of American forces.

If we cannot succeed in achieving this, is it not possible that next month or next year, we will be striving to achieve the withdrawal of American forces from Nicaragua?

Madeline MURPHY

Remember Pearl Harbor?

Lots of people readily tell you where they were, what they were doing, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. But more clear in my mind was what I was doing on that fateful Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

I had just received a proposal of marriage from my future husband, who was in basic training at Fort Eustis (we always called it Fort "Useless") Virginia.

And to take my mind off of whether at 19, I could readily accept, I had gone with my sister and parents on a drive to Dover, Del. to visit friends at Delaware State College.

As we were driving back, the early sunset on that late fall day was especially beautiful. The air was crisp. The bare trees lent, however, an aura of melancholy to the country side, so deeply shadowed and somnolent were they.

We were halfway aware of the modulated hum of the car radio, when suddenly a special bulletin interrupted the quiet contentment of our separate mussing.

Here we were in the middle of Route 13, halfway home, not really sure of where Pearl Harbor was. Unable to fathom what this really meant to our lives. Would there be an invasion of the mainland? This "sneak attack" as they kept saying, could spread, couldn't it?

The panic, the uncertainty of what would come next prompted me that very night, to write a "Now is not the time..." letter to Fort Eustis. He had only been in the army two months, a private still, making $21 a month. All the practical reasons for refusing that proposal loomed.

And fear...that was the overpowering, compelling basis.

As I write this, looking out at the yard, from time to time, five children, six grandchildren and forty-one years later (!) and see this former GI, raking leaves with old faithful dog King patiently following him back and forth, ever so often rousting a covey of birds, or dragging a stick in the falling shadows of the early fall afternoon, just like Dec. 7, 1941, I wonder why I had hesitated at all.

But 42 years ago, youth and fear of the future were the overriding handmaidens of indecision.

Yet, youth today, given "The Day After" must feel fear also as the threat of war rumbles in the medinas of Beirut, the jungles of El Salvador, and the missile grounds of West Germany.

Then, in 1941, we had had the "yellow" threat, now everyone is being programmed against the "red" threat. But worse still, the fiery end to the planet as we know it is supported by a maniacal arms race that will escalate to $300 billion by 1985, if Cap Weinburger has his way (It is time to work for a change in the White House, young voters!)

Partners in co-existence have changed.

In 1943, we and the Soviets were allies, against Nazi Germany. With the subsequent victory at Stalingrad, which was the turning point in the war, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote Moscow: "The Red Army and the Russian people have surely started the Hitler forces on the road to ultimate defeat and have earned the lasting admiration of the people of the United States."

Now President Ronald Reagan, in a cowardly stance will not even speak to Andropov, will not even encourage dialogue with the Soviets.

Forty years later, despite Pearl Harbor, because of multinational convenience with Japanese labor, irksome though it may be to U.S. organized labor, we are encouraging militarism in Japan, where corruption runs rampant, during the growth of unemployment and the rising cost of living.

Despite constitutional prohibition, Japan is becoming the "Unsinkable aircraft carrier" destined to defend the U.S. as strange partner in preserving our adventurism in the Middle and Far East.

Ironically, the Japanese alone having been victimized by the only H-Bomb attack, seem to be inevitably following another Kamikaze force.

Aside from this incomprehensible movement, it was no mere diplomatic gesture, that prompted Ronald Reagan recently to meet with Prime Minister Nakasone.

His aim was to bolster the faltering support of Nakasone during the rebellious action of the Japanese parliament against the seating of former Prime Minister Tanaka, who had been convicted of bribery. Buttressed against this scandal are the mounting protests of Japanese peace groups and workers.

Who better than the DeGaulle-like Nakasone would not only support our multinational interests in Japan; but arm itself to the hilt, while being the "honest" broker of the Far East?

This in itself could be considered to be a return to the Pearl Harbor mentality, intended to escalate tensions that would bring us to WWIII.

And so in this month of Peace on Earth-Goodwill toward Men, it is imperative that we analyze the reasons behind high level visits by Ronald Reagan abroad as well as the increasing dangers of war and mobilize against any precipitous actions on any front, be it Japan, Western Europe or Central America.

Forty years ago, we were unprepared. Today we are not only over prepared, but spoiling for war, at a time when history should have taught us the prudence of cooexistence; the penalties of arrogance; and the humiliation of penance.

It is in this regard that we should remember Pearl Harbor.

NAACP REPORT:

Christmas gift suggestions

By Magdalene Fennell

One Christmas gift that everybody appreciates is a subscription to an absorbing magazine. One such magazine that should be considered for gift giving is THE CRISIS, the official publication of the NAACP. And the beauty of it all is that an NAACP membership automatically accompanies every CRISIS subscription.

In fact, THE CRISIS is available only through NAACP membership; consequently, those who decide on a CRISIS subscription give two gifts for the price of one - the magazine and the membership for only $10. In the case of youth up to 21, the cost is only $5.

Lynchings and other atrocities routinely committed against blacks in the early 20th century raised the consciences of many white Americans. Meeting in New York to discuss the plight of the Negro, several of them issued the Lincoln Day Call that resulted in the birth of the NAACP.

Needed next was a publication that would disseminate information about the new movement and its goal of securing freedom, justice, and equality for blacks. James Russell Lowell's poem, "The Present Crisis," inspired the name.

In that poem Lowell states, "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide." And when that moment comes, each must choose "for the good or evil side." Those who formed the NAACP and started THE CRISIS chose for the good side.

First published in 1910, THE CRISIS has for 73 years provided "A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES." Mary White Ovington, one of the founders of the NAACP, wrote in a small booklet describing the organization's birth, "Our history after 1910 may be read in our annual reports and in the numbers of THE CRISIS." With W.E.B. Dubois as its first editor, THE CRISIS became the vehicle through which nationwide attention was focused on The Struggle.

THE CRISIS chronicles the black man's journey toward freedom. It is a journal that should be in every black home and one that should be read. So many born between the Fifties and the Seventies know little of the perils faced and the progress made by the black race, a race of survivors. They are untrained in detecting the subtleties of racism 1983 style. THE CRISIS will open their eyes.

Articles in THE CRISIS are interesting, informative, and inspiring. They deal with a variety of areas of human endeavor and achievement. Some issues are devoted almost entirely to one subject while others deal with an assortment. Some topics highlighted in one subject issues issue.

Should gift givers want to spend more than $10 for a gift, there are NAACP memberships to fit every during 1983 include: The Black Women, The Black Church, The Black Athlete, and Black History Month. "Crisis Spotlight," "Along the NAACP Battlefront," and "Book Corner" are features of every issue.

Should gift gigers want to spend more than $10 for a gift. there are NAACP memberships to fit everyone's finances. There are contributing memberships for $15, $20, and $25. There are Junior Life memberships for $100; there are Senior Life memberships for $500, and there are Golden Heritage Life xemberships for $1,000.

Give a friend or a relative a piece of history for Christmas. Each month when their CRISIS magazine arrives they will remember you and your generous gift. Call 366-3300 to arrange a subscription to THE CRISIS. Recipients will receive notice of their gift just before Christmas.

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from our readers. We reserve the right to edit the material to fit space and other requirements. All letters must be signed with a verifiable address.

Samuel L. BANKS

Jubilee amid crisis

The frantic, frenzied and fitful Yuletide season, once again, has descended upon us. Getting, spending and reveling tend to obscure the central meaning of Christmas, the birth of a universal and loving Savior over 1900 years ago.

As I mentioned in my last column, this year has been obdurate and terribly difficult for a disproportionate number of Black, Hispanic and poor people. Christmas for the poor and dispossessed evokes troubling and conflicting ambivalences: hope and despair; harsh realities and stargazing; uplift and resignation; rejection and affirmation. Where do you stand on this spectrum? Are you affirming human possibilities or have you succumbed to what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used to call the "fatigue of despair?" Christmas 1982 is indeed a time for serious and sober reflection and gratitude to God for having "Gotten over" and rededication and renewal for the awesome challenges and opportunities for the present and future.

The extraordinary example of Christ's birth in Bethlehem provides a radiant and impelling lodestar for us, amidst our personal and collective vicissitudes, to witness for Him, in a world at war with itself, for a more humane, caring and just society. We must constantly keep in mind that the essence of witness is concrete action. I urge you, in spite of the raging and debilitating socio-economic and political storms, to refrain from self-pity, indecision and indifference.

A planning effort that is now underway at the Douglas Memorial Church for the NAACP's annual Jubilee Day represents a powerful expression of WITNESS in contemporary times. The statewide Jubilee Day Planning Committee is under the able, creative and redoubtable leadership of the Reverend Marion C. Bascom, Pastor of the Douglas Memorial Church. Stellar and influential members of the Jubilee Steering Committee include Reverend Dr. Vernon N. Dobson, Reverend Dr. Lorenzo Graves, Reverend Willie E. Ray, Reverend Harold Dobson, Mrs. Enolia McMillian, President of the Baltimore Branch, NAACP, Ms. Barbara Cooper, Executive Director, Baltimore Branch, NAACP, Dr. Emmett C. Burns, Regional Director, NAACP, Mrs. Peggy Jackson, Reverend John Wright, Mrs. Phyllis Shelton, Dr. Calvin Burnett, President, Coppin State College, Dr. Samuel L. Banks, national President, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History and a host of educational and community leaders and lay people. Each is WITNESSING in his or her way for Jubilee Day and human uplift.

What, then, is Jubilee Day? At the end of the battle of Antietam Maryland in September, 1862, after a series of Union military defeats during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln made known his intention to issue the Emancipation Proclamation which would end slavery on January 1, 1863 in the seceded Southern states. JANUARY 1, 1863, THE DAY THAT THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION WENT INTO EFFECT, BECAME KNOWN AS JUBILEE DAY OR DAY OF FREEDOM. A BLACK SPIRITUAL PUT IT THIS WAY:

"Shout, O children!
Shout, you're free!
For God has brought
your liberty!" While Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation did not set slaves free in the South, the seceded states remained under the control of the Confederacy, it did provide a potent and compelling impetus for ending the scourge of slavery in our nation. Jubilee Day celebrates the affirmation and celebration of freedom and human dignity for all.

The Jubilee Day observance is a witness of hope and the imperishability and indivisibility of freedom. YOU CAN HELP IN THIS MASSIVE EFFORT. Your support is needed in two specific ways:

1. If you are not a member of the NAACP, PLEASE SECURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY. It is scandoulous and clearly unpardonable of over 450,000 Black citizens, fewer than 10,000 are members of the local branch. SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM BY JOINING THE NAACP TODAY.

2. Make plans now to attend the Jubilee Day observance on Sunday, January 1, 1984 at the Enon Baptist Church at 4:00 p.m. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND ARRANGE TO BE PRESENT. YOU ARE NEEDED AT THE JUBILEE DAY OBSERVANCE.

There is no greater joy for those of us who write on a regular basis than to hear from our readers. It does not matter whether you agree with the opinions that we express in our columns, but it does matter that you are thinking seriously and working to improve the quality of life of the community. Jubilee Day, I believe, is a marvelous opportunity for the total community to bestir itself and affirm freedom and social justice for all. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT ENON BAPTIST CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1984 AT 4:00 P. M.

Finally, I challenge you, whatever your socio-economic condition, to summon the will, spirit and energy to proclaim in the timeless tradition

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Thank all of you for the understanding, encouragement and marvelous support that you have afforded me in the course of the year. In the spirit of the season: YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES HAVE A MOST JOYOUS CHRISTMAS PREGNANT WITH HOPE AND PERSONAL CONTENTMENT AND FULFILLMENT.

AFRO Survey

Do you think the draft should be reinstated?

Gladys Randall

Mike Latimore

Eddie Beverly

Steven Johnson

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was: "Do you think the draft should be reinstated?"

Gladys Randall, 38, secretary, "I think there's going to be a war. U.S. involvements in various countries will perpetuate some type of war I believe. I'm not sure if it is right for one to be reinstated, but there will probably be one anyway."

Mike Latimore, 37, salesman, "They should have never gotten rid of the draft. We live here in this country, and we should have to do our share to protect it. There naturally should be a certain amount of patriotism. If U.S. wasn't such a great country, why is everybody here?"

Eddie Beverly, 24, busboy, "No! If something happened, people would volunteer. Most likely we're going towards a war anyway. When you look at what Reagan is doing and the situation he has placed us in Lebanon, there is no way we can avoid a war really."

Steven Johnson, 18, maintenance, "Yes, it should be reinstated. I think more people want to be drafted. I believe that. They want to get some type of military experiences."

Curtis Collick, 20, salesman, "No. People should go if they want and if they don't want to, they shouldn't be forced. Sure there is an obligation to the country, but I think if there is a crisis, people will on their own join the services."

Shelby Ware, 18, student, "I'm not much for war, but a person should be asked to chose if he wants to go or not. He shouldn't be forced. That is why there is an Armed Services so people can volunteer who want to."

Pete Nickens, 28, unemployed, "No. Reagan says we're suppose to help other countries. Allow him to put himself in their situation. Does he really think they would help us? We have to sacrifice our young men for other countries who don't care two cents about our well-being."

Rashid Bey, 26, manager, "No. If I had a son, I wouldn't send him unless he was fighting for his family, not for another country."

Curtis Collick

Shelby Ware

Pete Nickens

Rashida Bey

Brainwashing you for Christmas

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Christmas is just weeks away and advertisers are up to their old tricks. You'll be able to spot them a mile away if you watch carefully.

Psychological behavior manipulators are helping to design promotional programs that will make you buy hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise that you would not buy without their coaxing.

This is a Christmas brainwashing campaign that is carefully and scientifically planned to appeal to your sentimentality develop a guilt feeling within you, make you feel insecure and, therefore, result in your purchasing expensive gifts for everyone. Thus, you will feel sad and lonely while the manafacturers of merchandise feel wealthy.

Do you like that new Japanese tape recorder? You will in a few weeks after you see it advertised over and over again. Are you sad and sentimental? You will be after listening to weeks and weeks of Christmas carols.

Do you feel guilty about the argument you had with a member of your family? You will after a continuous playing of sad, religious Christmas music.

Are you lonely and in need of campanionship? You will be after you see the many advertisements of loving couples embracing one another at Christmas.

You, like millions of other Americans, will purchase gifts for your wife, husband, girl or boy friend, relatives, acquaintances or boss in order to help remove your guilt, sadness and loneliness. The manufacturer of your gift will be wealthier as the result of your purchase while you will be burdened with months of bills.

The day after Christmas, advertisers will figure out how and when to brainwash you. take advantage of your emotional insecurities and make you spend money that you cannot afford to spend. All over again.

Perhaps it will be Valentine's Day, Easter or Christmas of 1984 but there is always another occasion for advertisers to manipulate your emotions and literally make you buy their products.

You are probably thinking that you made the decision to buy the item of your own free will. No one, you might feel, has the power to make you do anything that you would not normally do. But, advertising motivational psychologists know differently. Their ads are carefully and scientifically designed to achieve the effects that they desire.

The Christmas merchandising brainwashing campaign begins just before Thanksgiving and comes to a screeching halt after Christmas. After you have been squeezed of all holiday emotions and money that they can get out of you.

It is also after Christmas that millions of Americans suffer deep and prolonged depression. They have been squeezed of most of their emotional energy; the spirit of giving that made you important to someone else at Christmas ends abruptly; the wonderful motivational Christmas music that lifted you from your previous unhappiness is no longer readily available in restaurants, department stores and on radio and the emotional crutch has been kicked out from under the public.

Suddenly, you are all alone.

The commercial aspects of the holiday season far outweigh the religious. In fact, at Christmas, religion is usually used solely to implant sadness in your subconscious mind that motivates you to buy, buy, buy.

If you want to give gifts, that's your business. But make no mistake about it, advertisers use religious music at Christmas for one purpose and one purpose only; To brainwash you into buying their products.

ANTHONY ARMSTRONG:

15 ways... to ruin a child

1. Teach the child that Christmas was started for them so that they can find a Cabbage Patch doll or a toy gun under the Christmas tree.... Instead of "Christ" - "Mas" being a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The mistaken purpose produces the feeling, in the child, that they are the most important thing in the world, when in fact they are not. The proof of this assertion lies in the premature death of the child. If the child should die very little in the world, at large, changes.

2. Teach the child to talk too much, especially before he or she understands the more important skill of listening. The proof: most people have two ears and only one mouth. This fact should lead one to conclude that people are supposed to listen at least twice as much as they talk.

3. Begin to give the child an allowance before the child understands and appreciates the value of anything (let alone money); and before the child understands anything about saving or giving.

4. Generally attempt to give the child, "Everything I never had". This is popularly called spoiling the child. The process satisfies only the parents; reducing their guilt. It does nothing to help the child. It produces false expectations, because we adults can really only give back what we got, not what we've never had.

5. Use the child as a bargaining chip in a game between the mother and father. In such a game, when the mother wins the father loses and vice versa. What the child learns is how to "play" one parent off against the other. This is called manipulation. Ultimately all are hurt because people do not like to be manipulated. The child never wins.

6. Spare the rod; spoil the child, and then get angry at the ill-mannered monster you've produced.

7. Allow the child to see you smoke and then tell the child not to smoke. "Do as I say not as I do", produces parental tyrants and confused children. The parents become tyrants to enforce their statements. The children become confused trying to separate what you (the parent) say from what you do.

8. Accept an invitation to a friend's house warming and when you arrive become jealous because the friend's new home is larger, more costly, and more modern than yours. This is called jealousy coupled with envy. Both are listed among the seven deadly sins. So go the parents, so go the children.

9. Punish the child when you are angry. As smart as children naturally are they will discover that punishment and anger are directly connected. So, when the child finds his or her self angry, they find themselves wanting to punish someone; and punish someone when they are angry.

10. Tell the child how beautiful he or she is and then put a relaxer in the child's hair.

11. Support the child when the child is wrong.

12. Not know what is right and what is wrong; and yes there still are such things.

13. Mistrust the child, automatically. Parents that can't trust their child can't trust themselves or their mate.

14. Teach a child to measure others by the size of their nose, the color of their skin (light or dark), the make of car, and the score they received while playing Pac Man, or, in order not to be sexist here, Lady Pac Man.

15. Demand little and then get up-set when the child gives back exactly what you demand.

PLAIN TALK

Middle ear infection

By Derrick Matthews, MD

As winter approaches certain illnesses start to occur with greater frequency. These include the common cold, sore throat, influenza, pneumonia, and diarrhea. An unwelcome addition to this list is ear infection.

There are 2 kinds of ear infection. They are called otitis externa and otitis media. Otitis externa is an inflammation of the ear canal and is treated primarily with prescription ear drops. "Sweet oil" and other home remedies may help the pain for a short while but rarely cure the inflammation.

Infection of the middle ear, or otitis media, is the second most common cause of pediatric sick visits after respiratory tract infections. It most frequently occurs in the winter season.

Otitis media most frequently starts with fluid buildup behind the eardrum. This fluid ordinarily drains out the Eustachian tube, helping to clear the inner ear of germs. The tube can malfunction because of swelling or blockage at its exit into the throat. Thus the germs start to grow, causing an infection. As the fluid increases in the middle ear it causes the eardrum to bulge out creating a great deal of pain.

What are the presenting complaints with a middle ear infection? Older children obviously complain of earache. They may also complain of headache or sore throat, even though the problem may really be in the ear. Fever is a very common sign.

Younger babies cannot talk. Frequently energetic digging in the ears or tugging at the ear, especially on one particular side by a child who does not do this out of habit offers a good clue. Fever is a common sign in this group also. Listlessness and poor appetite are also important but can be general symptoms of any illness. Suspicions should be raised in event of a cold since ear infections often occur in such instances. If there is any question the symptoms should be discussed with the doctor.

Approximately one-third of ear infections do not have a fever. In fact a few have been detected just on routine examination.

Occasionally the child may be too young to complain of ear pain or may not be a "complainer." At those times the first symptom noted may be a draining ear. This is now reduced because the eardrum, which had been under a great deal of pressure has now burst, allowing the fluid, which is now either yellow-green or grayish -white in color, is now draining out the ear. With proper treatment the eardrum will heal itself.

Treatment of middle ear infection consists of aspirin or acetaminophen for pain and an antibiotic. The most frequently used antibiotic is amoxacillin, either in generic or brand name version. This is commonly called "the pink medicine" and given 3 times a day or every 8 hours for 10 days. Some doctors will use some other antibiotics depending on the frequency of resistant ear infections in their patient population.

Because of the existence of germs that are sometimes resistant of amoxacillin every child with a diagnosed ear infection should be seen again within 1-2 weeks to have the ears rechecked. This is to make sure that the infection is being effectively treated. If the infection shows little or no signs of improvement the doctor may elect to repeat a course of the same antibiotic or use a different one for another 5-10 days, again with followup.

The prognosis for untreated or improperly treated middle ear infection can be poor. Obviously some infections clear up on their own just as they did before antibiotics were discovered. A poorly treated infection can progress to mastoiditis which is an infection of the bone around the ear. It requires surgery to be cleared. Another consequence of untreated ear infection can be meningitis. Deafness can also occur as a result of improperly treated infection.

There is a special group of children who have chronic and repeated ear infections. They keep bouncing in and out of the doctors office and have tried at least 2 or 3 medications without lasting effects. Their parents dread every cold because they know it means another infection and trip to the doctor.

These children are most often referred to an ear, nose and throat specialist (ENT or otolaryngologist. These specialists put in PE (polyethylene ventilation tubes in the eardrum to perform the drainage that the Eustacian tube no longer seems to be doing. There is no question the majority of children benefit from the tubes. The frequency of infection can decrease significantly although ususually they are not eliminated completely.

On occasion these children also have their adenoids removed. While there is still controversy regarding the procedure it is more accepted today than 10 years ago. It is done in conjunction with placement of PE tubes. Most ENT surgeons feel that the results have been beneficial to the children.

There is very little that a parent can do to prevent ear infections. Once suspected, however, there is much that can be done to prevent the possible long term consequences of mastoiditis, meningitis and deafness. Careful attention to signs and symptoms and contact with the doctor in uncertain times will help significantly to prevent misfortune.