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# Watch for fire hazards

Occupants of the three-story house at 1116 N. Monroe St., in West Baltimore, didn't have a chance when flames engulfed their home shortly after midnight on Friday. A two-week-old infant and four other children, ages 3 to 12, and three adults, ages 16 to 31, are dead. Three other family members are confined to hospitals with serious burns.

Fire Department officials term this the worst single fire disaster in the city since 10 persons died in a Tivoly Ave. blaze a year ago. They report they found no evidence of a smoke detector, and believe the fire started in a first floor couch, probably from a cigarette.

Residents in all sections of the city have been shocked by the Monroe St. deaths they have mixed their expressions of sympathy with offers to help.

There are some positive steps individuals and organizations can take immediately, particularly neighborhood associations. For example, they can canvass the neighborhood associations. For example, they can canvass the neighborhood to make sure all homes have the required smoke detectors, and if their neighbors can not afford the detectors, provide funds to purchase and install them.

Most important, the Fire Department says all residents should have a fire exit plan. This is a must for those who live in two and three story row houses and apartments. Know how you can evacuate the home should stairways be blocked. Have rope, and-or ladder, near the exit at all times.

Since this is the Christmas season, here are additional tips from the Fire Department:

1. Make sure your Christmas tree is watered regularly.
2. Use only approved lighting fixtures.
3. Do NOT use frayed electric cords.
4. Do NOT run electrical cords under rugs or other floor coverings.
5. Do NOT place Christmas tree in front of exits.
6. Do NOT use portable heaters unless they are vented.
7. Make sure a portable electric heater is not placed near combustible material.
8. If you smoke, do NOT empty ash trays before you retire. Make sure all cigarettes are out.

If you need help in determining whether your heating equipment is safe, call or visit the fire station in your neighborhood. There you may also place orders for smoke detectors which cost just $8.95.

# Jack Scarbath and Morgan U.

Jack Scarbath joined family and friends to eulogize Coach Talmadge Hill at Morgan State University in March 1982.

It was then that he recalled growing up on Montebello Terrace in Northeast Baltimore, not far from the Morgan campus.

More importantly, he remembered he first became interested in football while watching Coach Hill and Coach Edward Hurt conduct practice on the Hillen Rd. field near his home.

Scarbath won a scholarship to the University of Maryland, was All American quarterback in 1952. Last week, he was inducted into the National Football Foundation's College Hall of Fame.

This recognition of Scarbath was good news for Coach Hurt. Now 83 and retired, he called the Scarbath salute "long overdue."

In the Hall of Fame, Scarbath joins famed Morgan players, Roosevelt Brown, the lineman, and Lenny Ford, who began his varsity play at the Baltimore school before starring at the U. of Michigan.

The Scarbath honor provides another opportunity to remind AFRO readers that Coach Hurt and the late Coach Hill led Morgan grid teams to 14 championships from 1930 to 1969, and that their 1932-38 record of 54 games, with no losses-47 victories and 7 ties-has not been matched yet.

# 1 plus still only 3

There was much publicity last month about the Fire Board's anticipated promotion of a second black deputy chief, with the board utilizing its rules of picking any one of the first five on the eligibility list to correct racial inequity.

The casual observer may not have noticed, but instead of following this procedure the Fire Board played a game of checkers. It received authority to authorize ten deputy chiefs.

As a result, Battalion Chief William Hunt, white, no. 1 on the list, and Battalion Chief Henry D. Fowlkes, black, no. 2 on the list, were both promoted.

In our letters column, Arnold E. Reynolds, president of the black firemen's organization, Vulcan Blazers, Inc., expresses concern about the present rate black firemen are promoted, and suggests ways to improve the affirmative action program.

There appears to be merit in the Vulcan Blazer position when we examine the result of the latest promotion. In August, there were 48 senior commanders, only 3 black. Today, there are still only 3 blacks out of a total of 48.

The accompanying chart shows it:

Baltimore Fire Department

| Senior Commanders | | |
|---|---|---|
| August 1983 | Total | Black |
| Deputy Chiefs | 9 | 1 |
| Battalion Chiefs | 39 | 2 |
| Total —— | 48 | 3 |
| December 1983 | Total | Black |
| Deputy Chiefs | 10 | 2 |
| Battalion Chiefs | 38 | 1 |
| Total | 48 | 3 |

In a city like Baltimore which is 56 percent black, the Fire Department black employment picture is a dismal one. Of the department's 2,014 employees, only 416 are black.

The Fire Board should consider the alternatives suggested in the Vulcan Blazer letter. At the present rate of promotion, it appears racial imbalance will not be corrected anytime soon.

# CAPITAL COMMENTS

By John W. Lewis

Walter F. Mondale, the front-running Democratic candidate for president is waging a vigorous, competitive campaign not to lose black voters to the six-week old candidacy of Rev. Jesse Jackson. Mondale believes that his civil rights views compare favorably to Jackson's.

Mondale staffers are telling black leaders that 1984 is too critical a year for the black community to throw primary support behind a "protest" candidate. They argue that Mondale has the capability to build coalitions with a broad cross section of American voters, that for black voters, Mondale represents the best opportunity for the black community to have national influence and to make sure that black votes are not uselessly "siphoned."

In Alabama, Mondale competed with Jackson to receive the endorsement of the Alabama State Conference, an influential group of black Democrats. In Mississippi, he competed with Jackson to receive the endorsement of the State branch of the National Educational Association, which is predominantly-black. Both contests were undecided at press time.

Mondale's civil rights record will generally receive high marks in the black community. Mondale staffers believe. He was an original co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and fought strongly against attempted weakening amendments during the Senate debate.

Mondale introduced fair housing legislation in 1967 and 1968, which became law after a prolonged legislative fight. As chairman of the FBI Subcommittee of the Select Committee on Intelligence, he investigated the FBI'S vendettas against Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As Vice President, Mondale took a leading role in support of black-interest issues. Mondale staffers recommending appointments of minorities to all areas of the Federal Government, appointing more blacks to the federal judiciary than all previous administrations combined and increasing government procurement contractors for minority enterprise.

They also cite his role increasing federal support for black colleges, pushing for Congressional approval for full House and Senate voting rights for Washington, D.C. and increasing federal funding for education, especially Title I programs for disadvantaged youth.

In his campaign speeches, Mondale has called for a number of measures aimed at ending racial discriminating and increasing equal opportunities for black Americans. Mondale's civil rights program includes: renewing forward movement on school integration and fair housing through strong enforcement of court decisions; restoring budget cuts in federal programs for the disadvantaged; prohibiting tax breaks for segregated private academic and stepping up enforcement efforts in the workplace to ensure fair job opportunities.

As President, Mondale has said he would make the strengthening of historically black colleges a high priority and would place the Office of Black College Initiatives within the White House. He would also expand student assistance through increased Pell grants for low and-moderate income students, expand the guaranteed student program and offer greater opportunities for work study.

Mondale advocates the use of economic sanctions against the racist South African regime and has said he would be prepared to use a range of unilateral measures, such as restrictions in the areas of exports, nuclear materials and air traffic. As President, Mondale has said he would make the independence of Namibia and the ending of South African apartheid a top foreign policy priority.

George Dalley, an attorney who held several high-level appointments in the Carter administration, heads the list of Mondale's black staffers. The former aide to Congressman Charles Rangel served in the Carter administration as a deputy assistant Secretary of State and as a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Other key blacks include Doris Crenshaw, the assistant campaign director for black affairs; Jewell Sheppard, the assistant director for fundraising; Lillian Brooks, administrative assistant for issues. Two former Carter appointees, James Dyke, an attorney, and Valerie Pinson, a specialist in congressional affairs, are assisting Mondale as campaign consultants.

JUST THINKING By Al Sweeney

# Christmas message for 1983

As 1983 winds down and the advent season is upon us, there is a common thread that seems to run through the growing ranks of the elderly.

Those persons, who were around during the 1940's, the exciting '50's and the early, sexy '60's love to recall how they did things in the "old days."

They will tell you that the NAACP has not been the same since Walter White was around and began to slip during the latter years of Roy Wilkins.

The Urban League historians will tell you that since the Whitney Young's days that organization of social workers and the bridge between the ghetto and the corporate board rooms has drooped.

The league old timers will tell you that Young brought a type of leadership that was unparalleled and never will be attained. The current league head John Jacobs is a nice guy, but is not even a Vernon Jordan.

And Jordan could never be compared to Young.

There are 21 members of the Congressional Black Caucus today. But, the old politicians will tell you that entire conference group never had the influence of a Adam Powell or a William Dawson.

Those were real politicians, they will tell you. Both could get things done and really knew the game.

When Powell spoke, people listened. When these guys issue a press release, some unkind critics opine the folks laugh.

Maybe, because of the large number they are fragmented.

The old Elks leaders like to recall the days of the "grand," J. Finley Wilson. Under his leadership the Elks blossomed. Hobson Reynolds, who holds on the reigns is a mere shadow of the great Wilson, 'tis said.

The AME's had Bishops Reverdy C. Ransom, D. O. Walker, D. Ward Nichols, Joseph Gomes, W. B. Wilkes, I. H. Bonner to name a few big leaders in the movement founded by Richard Allen.

Old Washingtonians like to remember the Rev. W. H. Jernagin, who in an advance age, played an instrumental role in battering down the racial segregation barriers of D.C.

Howard's Baptist educators Dr. Mordecai Johnson laid the foundation for its current dominance as the leading Black institution of higher learning.

When Mordecai Johnson addressed a group it was a long, but inspiring experience. As they say, they just can't find orators like Dr. Johnson anymore.

Some 20 years have passed since Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his "I have a dream" message. The nation has finally honored the last Black leader of the Black people.

Would - be leaders play his taped recorded speeches over - and - over again but none have captured his unique style. M. L. King Jr. was made out of a different mould.

Of the last forty years, Mary Church Terrell and Mary McLeod Bethune were inspirational Black women who walked in the footsteps of the great Black women of the slavery battle.

When it comes to music, popular music, that is, song stylists such as Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington, and Sarah Vaughn will cut above any performer that you can find today, at least that is what the critics say.

In big band era you just can't find a Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Jimmie Lunceford, the best of their day, around these days.

As we look back to the Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Jesse Owens, Wilma Rudolph days on the sporting fields, they were the cream of the past.

But let's face it.

In 1983, we have some newcomers emerging. They are products of our plastic, highly - technical era.

They are products of the Jesse Jackson times. Men like Dave Eaton, Tony Stanley, in the pulpits of the nation's capital, they are the Black women who are leading our social organizations and political groups, they are to be found in all walks of life.

They can be found teaching courses in their spare time out in Montgomery County, where Black pupils are having their problems passing college preparatory tests; they are involved in fund - raising to keep our Black colleges and rallying to the many causes surfacing today.

As I look around in every field of endeavor, the Black Experience maybe they are not asking Black headlines of 1983 like those of yesteryears.

They are better today — by far. That's my Christmas message of 1983.

# Letters to the Editor

## More fire department jobs

Dear AFRO:

In the history of the Baltimore City Fire Department each black individual who has been promoted to any officer's position has earned it by being in the number one position or the next eligible person on the list.

Affirmative action, as we see it, should be similar to what has happened in the Baltimore city Police Department, that is, because of past discriminatory practices, the Police Department rectified existing inequities against blacks in the higher echelon by conducting an examination entirely for blacks. Those who passed the exam were immediately promoted. The Board of Fire Commissioners can and should do this.

On the present Deputy Chief list, there is only one black candidate eligible. He is Battalion Fire Chief Carl McDonald. If affirmative action is truly the desire of the Fire Department, he should be the next deputy chief.

Presently, there are eight black captains on the battalion chief eligibility list. They should be promoted to battalion chief.

This action would not be unique in the Fire Department. There is a well-established history of individuals having obtained their rank or grades without competitive exams, or no competition from others.

Examples: the position of Fire Burn Officer was created for an individual and abolished upon his resignation. Presently, the position of Fire Department information Officer was created and upgraded without competition.

The position of Fire Department Personnel Officer in headquarters was created and upgraded without benefit of a competitive examination.

Those who are eligible for appointment as battalion chiefs presently hold the rank of captain. They are college-trained, highly experienced and capable of doing the job. Their college degrees are in fire service technology, which many of their white counterparts do not have.

If these eight men were promoted, it would reflect the 20 percent blacks in the Fire Department, and would affirm the hope of the black community that the Fire Department is actually pursuing a positive affirmative action program.

ARMOLD E. REYNOLDS
President, Vulcan Blazers, Inc.

Henry D. Fowlkes

Clyde Johnson Smith

EDITOR'S NOTE: Vulcan Blazers, Inc. is composed of black firemen and was organized in 1970 to combat discriminatory hiring practices in the Baltimore city Fire Department. The Blazers won a 1972 class action suit against the city. This letter is occasioned by the recent promotion of two men, one black and one white, to the top administrative posts as deputy fire chief. See editorial in this issue.



G. JAMES FLEMING

# Christmas being shared with nuclear fears

Amid the Christmas bells, the Christmas lights and the Christmas rush, one question impinges on most minds: Can there be any real plan for survival in the event of a nuclear war — a full - blown nuclear bombing attack on the Washington - Baltimore area?

Can Civil Defense offer any hope?

Once upon a time (It seems that far back!), the "experts" planned that New Yorkers, the many millions of them, should evacuate to the New York suburbs. It did not take long, however, for one and all to recognize how ridiculous that "plan" was—if one can call it a plan.

Cynics have their own blueprint. It is a "No Plan," a stand reached long before "The Day After." These cynics, and they are seemingly countless, declare that the victims of nuclear warfare are helpless. Those who survive, as some baker's dozen may be expected to do, can give the credit for their survival to Luck more than to anything else.

In the 1990's when the nuclear bombing capacity far exceeds that released on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, what can be trusted to "Luck" is nil—or almost nil.

What will happen to Baltimore when shipping and railroad lanes are blocked and ships sunk, when Baltimore's port has been disheveled, and put out of operation, and when civilian airlines and airports are destroyed, as pilots and technicians are also among the human losses?

If survivors there are, they will find the city's manufacturing empire wiped out; tourism, one of the city's principal moneymakers, no more; the magnets of tourism, such as the aquarium, unnecessary luxuries, even if they were spared; private jobs nonexistent; the government....What government?

To any survivors, the worst affect of superpower nuclear war will be scarcity of necessities. Not the luxuries, but the life-sustaining essentials—water, vegetables, fuel, medicines, soap, matches to mention a few. It will take more than a generation for some of the soil to be food-producing again.

The above recital is only of the minor sufferings. The real impact of nuclear war—whether direct or indirect—is the radiation and nuclear and the poisonous gasses wafted by the wind, inflicting disintegration of flesh or mind, or both, blindness, insanity, death. Not a sprinkling of these maladies, but all in massive doses.

Both before and after "The Day After," there seems to be no hiding place from the totality of nuclear onslaught—nuclear slaughter.

For the remnants of survivors who will dare to venture out of their shelters, some weeks after the bombing, what will be safe to eat or drink? Where will the doctors and nurses be? Will Baltimore be able to sustain itself? Who will lead the lucky ones and prevent internercire uprising of brother against brother and the young against the aged?

What can we learn from the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their experience in the babyhood of nuclear warfare?

These and many more, are the questions on the collective mind of the people, as they express them from time to time. They are questions, for the most part, that have no complete and satisfying answers. There is so much still unknown by the average citizen about the mysteries of the new warfare and its instruments of annihilation of Planet Earth. annihilation of Planet Earth.

A friend of this column, Dr. B. Floyd Flickinger, an historian who wears many hats, has these appropriate lines in his annual (1983) poem for the Christmastide:

Where is the Star? Where the Heavenly Host?
Where is the Babe in a stable manager?
Where are the shepherds watching their flock by night?
Where are the Wise Men following the Star?
Alas, bursting bombs now replace the Star,
Whirring war planes destroying Peace on Earth
Crying children are innocent victims.
In vain we pray for wise men to lead us.
Sorry about the seeming gloom, but these are all the questions and the musings which make it difficult to say "Do enjoy the Christmastide, as much as possible."

# AFRO SURVEY

## Was Sugar Ray's announcement a surprise?

Bob Thomas

Barbara Ealey

Gregory Taylor

Carolyn Miller

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Were you surprised at Sugar Ray Leonard's decision to return to the ring?"

BOB THOMAS, 32, architectplanner, "Yes, I am surprised. I thought he had more sense than that. Given the nature of his injury in his last battle, I thought he'd think logically. Besides when looking at the precedent set by other boxers returning to the ring for that one last time out of retirement, I wouldn't want to see him lose."

BARBARA EALEY, 42, homemaker, "I'm surprised because I thought after he recognized the seriousness of his injury, he'd stop completely. That decision to return was probably not a good one. He just might get hurt again. That sport is just too violent."

GREGORY TAYLOR, 27, laborer, "No. I don't think the excitement was gone. Sugar Ray likes the limelight, and he wasn't getting that attention anymore. I really can't say I was surprised. He wants attention, that's all."

CAROLYN MILLER, 37, teacher, "Well, I'm disappointed that he returned. I guess I'm associating Sugar Ray's return with the return of Ali to the ring. Ali lost, and I really don't want to see Sugar Ray come back and suffer defeat. It can't be money that's propelling him to return. He has enough of that. I just hope he decides to do something else."

MICHAEL HUDGINS, 17, student, "Yes. I thought he stopped because of his eye and to return would be dangerous. He really shouldn't go back. He just might go blind."

DANIELLE EVANS, 15, student, "I was surprised because I thought he was going to give it up. If he were to be in a fight and get himself hurt, he'd regret it. He's an old man I think, and he should retire and perhaps become a teacher."

W. SIMMONS' 70, retired, "I don't know what motivated him to go back, so I will not make an analysis on his actions. If he feels he'll be alright, I trust his judgement. He's responsible for his existence and only him."

CLYDE MILLER, 20, supervisor, "Sure I was surprised and all I can say is good luck. He's going to do what he wants to anyway. I figure, however, a boxer known how to defend himself and guard his body. The way he fights, I don't think there will be any great risks."

Michael Hudgins

Danielle Evans

W. Simmons

Clyde Millner

# NAACP REPORT:

## Equalizing expenditures

By Magdalene Fennell

Almost daily we are reminded of the need for improving the quality of education. Employers complain about the illiteracy of job applicants. Significant numbers of students fail functional reading and writing tests. Soviet students are reportedly better prepared in mathematics and science than American students.

Whether because of cultural bias or some other reason, white students, proportionately speaking, perform better on standardized tests than blacks. Seventh and eighth graders having experienced two or three "hold backs" drop out of school. Lacking a diploma and the skills needed to pass grade equivalency tests, they become the hard core unemployed.

Concerned citizens can articulate the problems of education, but many feel powerless to effect solutions to these problems. In fact, opportunities for the average citizen to influence the educational process in a positive way do not frequently present themselves. Often people become aware of such opportunities only after it is too late to take advantage of them.

The opportunity to influence the educational process is now available to all who want to make education the number one priority here in Baltimore City. That opportunity involves lobbying for the implementation of the school aid proposals of the Civiletti Task Force.

Appointed by Gov. Hughes on June 27, 1983, the task force worked during the summer and the fall months to develop a plan that would equalize per pupil expenditures in the school systems of Baltimore City and the 23 counties of Maryland.

The task force has now released its report containing two plans, one that would cost $180 million and another that would cost $244 million. Research and statistics have shown that in the wealthy counties where more money is spent on education, pupil achievement is greater. For this reason, the NAACP favors the costlier plan.

When the General Assembly convenes in January, senators and delegates will consider the Civiletti report. In conjunction with the report, they will be exploring ways of raising the new dollars needed to adequately finance education.

Now is the time to begin letting your representatives know that you want per pupil expenditures in Baltimore City to equal those of Montgomery County, wealthiest of the state's sub divisions. Through letters, telegrams, and telephone calls, let your elected officials know that you are willing to pay higher taxes so that excellence in education will prevail.

In addition to writing your own letters and making your own telephone calls, you will want to encourage relatives, friends, and acquaintances to follow your example. Why not sponsor a letter writing party for family or for club?

After briefing party participants on the objectives and the findings of the Civiletti Commission, distribute pen, paper, and stamped envelopes to each person. Explain that no one can leave until the task has been accomplished.

If two or three persons at your letter writing party decide to have their own sessions, pyramiding will occur, and before long our general assemblymen will be deluged with letters asking them to support the Civiletti plan and to find creative ways of financing it.

# Letters

## Feed the people not Pentagon

Just last week I read an article where the Secretary of Defense announced that he would ask for a 50 billion dollar increase in the Defense budget. This would make the budget over 300 billion dollars officially. While I could go to great lengths to point out the lack of necessity of this sum, I will cite only one figure.

According to published reports, the Congressional Budget Office, in a report to a House Ways and Means Subcommittee, pointed out that "a shift of 45 billion dollars fron the rich to the poor could wipe out poverty in America."

So, as Christmas nears, I would like to ask a question. Would America be better off with 50 billion dollars added to the military budget so that Misters Reagan and Weinburger can wipe out the Grenadas and life on our planet, or could we use it to wipe out poverty in our country? I am sure that Santa Claus and even Jesus Christ would say, "Feed the people, not the Pentagon."

M. Jackson

## Equality vs. Superiority

Dear AFRO:

Walter Williams has written an incredible article in the AFRO (December 6th) wherein he claims that nuclear equality with the Soviet Union is not enough. In order to be secure we must have clear nuclear superiority.

Mr. Williams overlooks the fact that both of the U.S. and the Soviet Union have thousands and thousands of major nuclear weapons. It would take only a few hundred of these devices to destroy both countries. Our submarine force alone could destroy the Soviet Union.

Those people who advocate a nuclear freeze and a joint U.S. Soviet reduction of nuclear weapons are not calling for the U.S. to totally disarm. They are trying to reduce the chances of accidents happening with the weapons or of a weapon being seized by terrorists or of war starting because of an over supply of weapons. There is also the extraordinary cost of producing a great new supply of unnecessary nuclear bombs.

GEORGE B. LAURENT
Executive Director

## Sexual fantasies

Dear AFRO:

I wish to thank Mr. R. B. Jones for his coverage, "Sexual Fantasies." It was well written, educational, revealing, and much needed. Many thanks to the AFRO's staff for putting it on the front page.

Sadness fell upon my heart as I read the facts stated by Niecey. It is sad that our black so called family men can't adhere to "normal" sex practices.

Women like Niecey will continue to swell men's egos, encourage gambling and drinking, rob wives and children of family love and money, rob churches of God given talents and most of all rob men of chances to have healthy bodies and high moral standards.

It's sad to see the number of black families who were once, solid, happy, caring, sharing, church going and respectful. We lose to women like Niecey, also those who come into money from accidents that they claim from large companies.

They are able to brag with material things but there is a time for every person to have his or her day with God. All of us will be judged from the lives we live daily.

Again thanks to Mr. Jones and the AFRO's staff for covering current unhealthy issues.

MARY B. E. JONES

By Charles Dugger

You better watch out, brothers and sisters! You better not cry, honey, mister, or miss! You better not pout, blood! My friend, let me tell you why—Santa Claus is not coming to town and won't be coming. In fact, Santa Claus never came to town.

Santa Claus is a Caucasian creation to hypnotize, confuse, divert, pacify, and fascinate us Santa Claus with his red suit and cheeks, his white hair and fur, and his blue eyes has been getting over on our people for too long. We must no longer tell our children that Santa Claus has done what we have really done. We must stop spending money and getting into debt for one day and having to spend the rest of the year trying to get out of debt. We must stop spending so much money and start spending our energy on ourselves. We are energy.

Sitting around like birds on a telephone wire, some of us wait for Christmas to come in the form of welfare checks, food stamps, free lunches, furniture grants, etc. for help which is needed. It is true that as taxpayers we should get some benefits from our government just as some big businesses and some farmers do with their huge welfare subsidies. But sadly, too many of us have become "junkies" for the Caucasian's handouts. We have become addicted to and dependent on the Caucasian and his bureaucratic, complicated, unnatural, and nonsensical way of life. We must once again, be self-reliant people. We must, once again, be people of self-determination. We must regain our self-motivation and independence. WE MUST CREATE WORK AND JOBS FOR OURSELVES; THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE DONE!

Hey us, what are we going to do when more and more of us lose our jobs or no longer receive our welfare checks, food stamps, etc.? Crying the blues, getting instantly high, beating each other in the head, abusing and disrespecting ourselves, or just sitting or standing around is not the answer. It is no use for us to be sitting around and waiting because there is no Santa Claus. Brother Samuel Yette wrote a profound book which should be read by all of us. Published in 1970, the book is entitled THE CHOICE. The book's subtitle is "The Issue of Black Survival in America". Let us read this very informative book and become more informed. There is no exinvolved in a terrible automobile accident. Mrs. Yette was killed, and Mr. Yette is in critical condition. Let us send our prayers and positive thoughts to this beautiful brother and his family.)

If My people, let us please stop confusing our children with Santa Claus. Why are we lying to our children? We are told to give credit where credit is due. Let us be positive examples to our children. Let us acknowledge and give credit to ourselves for what we have given them at Christmas time. Let us communicate to them why they are being given what they have received. LET US GIVE THEM OUR LOVE MORE THAN WE GIVE THEM THINGS! Let us make things for them and encourage them to do the same in return. This year, let us be wholly committed to being honest and forthright with our children. As Dick Gregory said for the title of one of his books—NO MORE LIES!

"The truth is the light, and the light must shine."

As 1983 ends and controversial "1984" begins, let us be more than ever, be people of love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice. Let truth and love radiate from us as brightly as did the heralded star spoken of in The New Testament that guided the Magi. Let us be lights to our families, neighborhoods, and communities.

This year, let us celebrate Kwanzaa, a beautiful seven day celebration of life for our people. Created by Brother Ron Karenga about 17 years ago and using our African heritage and traditions as its foundation, Kwanzaa is an African-American creation of beautiful positive values.

From Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, there are seven principles of black unity that are emphasized-a different principle for each of the seven days. The Kiswahili language, an East African language spoken in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, is used to communicate Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa means the feast of the first fruits of the harvest. The seven principles are UMOJA (Unity); KUJICHAGULIA (Self-Determination); UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility); UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics); and IMANI (Faith). Let us seek and inquire where different Kwanzaa celebrations will be held this year. Again it begins Dec. 26 and culminates on Jan. 1 with a Karamu or feast for the children. Let us celebrate Kwanzaa in our respective homes. Let us have truly meaningful family and community gatherings instead of some of the meaningless material and commercial gatherings. HAPPY KWANZAA!

In conclusion, let us remove Santa's claws from our minds, wallets, pocketbooks, and pockets. Just like we are Santa Claus once a year to our children and other loved ones, we can and we must be givers and providers for ourselves everyday of the year. Let us start really spending our energy on ourselves. Hey, you don't think we are energy? —Start loving, brothers and sisters and feel the energy flow. Let's stop getting hung up on Santa and making others rich. Let us begin to more and more enrich our lives. LET US REMOVE SANTA'S CLAWS FROM OUR MINDS AND SPIRITS!

# FROM SEED TO FRUIT:

## No more of Santa's claws