—Kwanzaa begins

Continued from page 1

The seven symbols of Kwanzaa and their representations are: MKEKA (straw mat), foundation upon which all else rests; KINARA (candle holder), original stalk from which we all come—Afrikan ancestors; MISHUMAA saba (seven candles), Nguzo saba—Seven Principles; VIBUNZI or MUHINDI, children—an ear for each child; KIKIMBE, unity cup; MAZAO (crops), fruits of our labor; and ZAWADI (gifts), rewards for our achievements.

What to do and when to do it

December 26-January 1:

—Fasting—Fast from sunrise to sunset to cleanse the body, discipline the mind and uplift the spirit.

—Greeting—Greet each other in Kiswahili asking "Haba ni?" (What's the news or what's happening?) Answer with the principle for that day. For example, on Dec. 26, respond with "Umoja."

—Libation—(Ancestral Communion)—An elder leader should pour libation, using juice or wine, from the kikombe onto the ground or into an earth filled container in honor of our ancestors.

—Lighting Ceremony—Light one mishumaa each day for the principle of that day, beginning with the black candle, which represents the first principle. Umoja. Each day thereafter alternately light the red and green candles. After each lighting, the principle of the day should be discussed. The ceremony should be held at a time when all family members can be present and participate (e.g. in the morning, before dinner). Children, especially, are encouraged to participate.

—Karamu(The Feast)—The Karamu is held on the night of Dec. 31 and includes food, drink, music, dance, conversation, laughter and ceremony. When possible traditional Afrikan practices should be observed, e.g. Afrikan music, dance and storytelling, sitting on the floor or on pillows, and eating with the hands (no utensils). Libation, Candlelighting and Harambee are conducted at the Karamu.

—Zawadi—(They should not be mandatory, expensive or excessive). It is suggested that zawadi be given to the children in one of two ways: one gift each day, reinforcing the principle of that day; or one or more gifts on January 1st, the last day of Kwanzaa.

Personally made gifts are strongly encouraged over commercial purchases. Regardless of what else is given, there are two strongly suggested items: (1) a book, and (2) a heritage symbol. These two items reinforce our commitment to education and the richness of our cultural heritage.

Citywide Kwanzaa activities

Dec. 24 — A pre-Kwanzaa Workshop "Everything you want to know about Kwanzaa" Mondawmin Mall Community Room, 6 p.m.

Dec. 26 — (Umoja) Arusi, Kawaida wedding ceremony, featuring couples renewing their wedding vows, plus Dr. Samuel Banks speaking on the seven principles of blackness and their significance to the family and community, 7 p.m. Union baptist Church, 1200 block Druid Hill Ave.

Dec. 31 — (Kuumba) Karamu (Feast) Guest artists, speakers from various black organizations, St. James and St. John RC Church Hall, 901 E. Eager St. 7 p.m.

Jan. 1 — (Imani) Kwanzaa creator, Dr. M. Ron Karenga will speak on WEAA, the time will be announced by the station.

—Rent strike fizzles

Continued from page 1

public high-rise buildings were unsuitable for families with children.

The BWRO Inc., met with council members, State Legislators, to discuss what they agreed was a serious problem in public high-rise apartments. Commissioner John Brody was sent a letter requesting a meeting with his office to seek a way to resolve the problem. However, there was no positive response from the Commissioner's office as to a date being set for a meeting.

Under law the DHCD must decide to take action on the complaints, or take the tenants to rent court seeking restitution.

The DHCD reports that out of the 130 tenants who filed complaints only 29 families have not paid their rent. The remaining 101 families have already paid their rent for December even though they ffiled complaints.

It is the belief of DHCD that the small amount of non-rent - paying tenants is due to the departments' efforts to answer all complaints individually. Work orders were written to correct or investigate each complaint received. Many of the reported break-downs, maintenance problems, and security concerns were addressed in accordance to the department's standards.

However, Bobby Cheeks said, that a lot of the tenants that paid their rent didn't know that they could legally withhold their rent for December. They are now advising people that they can withhold their January rent.

There will also be an additional 100 families to file this month that will be able to withhold their rent starting in February.

Cheeks is planning to take other methods within the next two weeks if the city hasn't responded to their complaints. Economic boycott of the Maryland State Lottery is one method that the BWRO is considering to gain attention to their issues.

In addition to the boycott, Cheeks mentioned that he would call for a general withholding of rent by public housing tenants who have unsolved problems without waiting for court permission.

—B-r-r-r weather

Continued from page 1

residential deliveries by 50 percent, adding five tankers. Trucks made emergency home deliveries during 20 - hour days as the company switchboard chattered with calls from shivering residents.

"They've been buying oil like it was water," said Mervin Wise, vice-president of operations.

John Metzger, a Baltimore Gas and Electric media relations officer said Wednesday, during which temperatures dropped to 18 degrees, was 11 degrees colder than normal. The unusually low temperature meant area residents consumed an average of 30 percent more fuel than normal.

Some Baltimore rowhouses, with traditional high ceilings and with an exposed side wall, consume as much as 100 gallons of oil "every three or four days," according to an oil company spokesperson.

The freezing temperatures forced a bitter choice upon poor and low-income working families who must decide whether to buy food or pay for heating fuel, according to area social workers.

"People get so squeezed at this time of year. It seems people can't keep warm and eat at the same time. They have to choose," said Ralph Moore, an assistant director at the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center in East Baltimore. "It's depressing."

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—'Best Christmas ever!'

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"My husband, Richard, was on the phone with the police. They said they had a child and that we should come down to see if it was Aarika. Fortunately, it was her," says Mrs. Curtis.

When the Curtises arrived at the police station Aarika wasn't crying, according to her mother.

"Evidently the girl didn't do too much harm," her mother said.

When Aarika was taken home, she found herself surrounded by a house full of uncles, aunts and other relatives. "They all seemed to grab her at one time," says Mrs. Newman, the maternal grandmother

"She doesn't seem to have any effects from it, maybe later on." The mother said her child is recalling details of her ordeal in bits and pieces, and has told her grandparents that the teenager tried to change her clothes and took her to a store where she held up a pair of pants.

Mrs. Curtis speculated that the kidnapper was trying to do this so that Aarika would not fit the description given to the police who were combing the city.

According to police reports, the child was with her grandmother shopping in the K-Mart. And, while checking out, Mrs. Newman noticed that Aarika had vanished, and notified store personnel and security guards.

"Aarika said the girl took her out of the store and that she called her grandmother. My mother said she heard Aarika call her, but she couldn't find her," said Mrs. Curtis.

Once outside the store, Aarika told her mother that she tried to get away from the girl, but that the girl grabbed her and slapped her, telling her to "keep quiet."

When the child told the girl she was scared and wanted to go home, the abductor said that she would not take her home.

Aarika's grandfather, George Newman, was outside the store in his car when he saw his granddaughter being led away by two women. He said he called out to her, but that she did not answer. When he attempted to follow in the car, he lost them as they headed toward the Rogers Avenue Subway Station.

Aarika was next seen on the subway by a family acquaintance, Reginald Smith. Smith says that he recognized Aarika, but not the teenager with her. He spoke to her and she responded, then he left the train at the Upton station.

"When Aarika saw Reggie on the train, she said she wanted to go, but that the teenaged girl wouldn't let her and said 'keep still and be quiet' or she would hit her again," says Mrs. Curtis.

When Smith encountered a Curtis family niece who told him about the kidnapping, he contacted the police.

City police outside Lexington Market and Charles Center subway stops were alerted.

Describing her daughter's account of the frightening five hours as "kind of sketchy," Mrs. Curtis said the afternoon consisted of a train and bus ride and a stop at the abductor's school where the teenager picked up some books.

Finally, around 5 p.m., the abductor left Aarika on the cold corner of Park Heights Avenue and Cold Spring Lane.

Early Wednesday afternoon she was in her grandparents' home in West Baltimore, seemingly unaffected by her ordeal, happily playing with her grandparents and fresh from an appearance on the "People Are Talking" TV show.

"Honestly, I didn't think we would find her so quickly," says Mrs. Newman.

"Thank God we did. It was a terrible five hours. It seems so unusual for a young girl to take a little girl like that," said the grandmother.

"The police had her picture on the news very quickly. I have to commend them because they were really good," Mrs. Curtis said.

As the elder Newman played with his granddaughter, he gently tried to prod her memory of the five hour nightmare by asking "What was the girl's name who took you yesterday?"

Back in the arms of her loving family and grandparents, Aarika is the only Christmas present that matters to the Curtis family this year, they said.

"We're going to put a ribbon around her and put her under the Christmas tree," the radiant grandmother smiled.

—Lottery

Continued from page 1

12/14/83	4446
12/15/83	1582
12/16/83	1897
12/19/83	4839
12/20/83	9057
12/21/83	9711

LOTTO

12/03/83	03	04	07	17	18	31
12/10/83	04	07	13	24	27	35
12/17/83	03	08	11	31	32	39

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5-digit:		88755
4-digit:		3097
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6-digit:		057779
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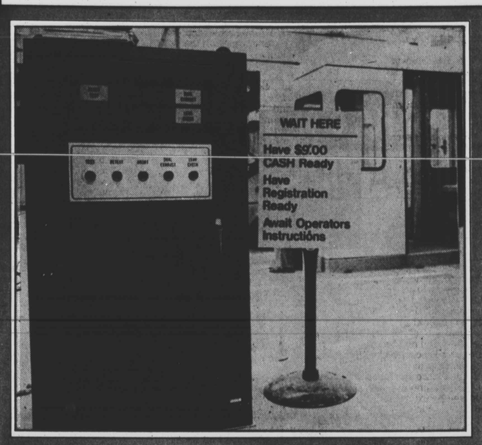

Congested downtown traffic contributes to air pollution problem in Baltimore City.

MANDATORY TESTING may force some to delay at the pump, but the facility is not ready for the previously scheduled January opening.

By Arthur Johnson
AFRO Staff Writer

"9 Dollars A Year for Cleaner Air" is the slogan we have heard given a commercial for the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) which had been slated to begin January 3, 1984, but begins in February, most cars will be tested on a year for pollution exhaust emissions.

This delay has been caused because the testing stations are not yet ready, says Dave Fulton, Chief of Programs and Planning, Division of Public Affairs, Maryland Department of Transportation. A statewide program which will not begin in February, requires that all automobiles, (which are not exempted for reasons of age or type of vehicle) undergo a two-minute emissions test by means of a tailpipe probe, two major air quality monitoring stations, two major air quality monitoring stations, two major air quality monitoring stations