Tierra Fletcher, 3, makes a last minute appeal to Santa before Christmas.

Research allows improved drug therapy for epilepsy patients

Applied research and space age technology have greatly improved the treatment of epilepsy and have opened new ways to permit hundreds of thousands of epilepsy patients to live normal lives.

Public Affairs Director Sylvia Blair says epilepsy is still treated with regular use of anti-seizure drugs. The new difference is where doctors used to prescribe two, three and even four or more drugs daily to stop seizures, they are achieving the same or better results with just one drug.

Dr. J. Kiffin Penry, a senior vice president of the Epilepsy Foundation of America, a professor of neurology at North Carolina's Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and an international authority on treatment of epilepsy, reports the results of these new efforts are fewer seizures, fewer side effects from drugs, and better chances of complete seizure control.

Dr. Penry reports it is now possible to bring 85 percent of all epilepsy patients into the group with controlled seizures. In the recent past only 50 percent could expect control of seizures.

Ms. Blair says this new level of success is made possible by a combination of improved treatment methods including the use of small portable machines to constantly monitor a patient's brainwaves. Another high tech procedure precisely monitors drug levels in the blood. This procedure permits a more effective drug therapy.

The Epilepsy Association of Maryland points out the new one drug therapy is not necessarily for everyone. There are still some people who may need more than one medication to control their seizures.

More and more experts now maintain that anyone with epilepsy taking multiple drugs and still having seizures or unwanted side effects should have a medical re-evaluation, she said.

"We want everyone who can benefit from these new developments to take advantage of them," Ms. Blair says. "Some people with epilepsy have had to pay quite a price in terms of unpleasant side effects in return for control of seizures. It doesn't have to be that way anymore," she said.

—South Africa

Continued from page 8

of the 166 U.S. companies and 5 South African Companies that were able to be rated, since some did not meet the requirements to get a rating, 34 are in the top categories of 1 which means they are making good progress. Some of these companies are Coca-Cola, I. E. Dupont de Nemours, Exxon and General Motors.

Sixty-five of the companies got a rating of two which meant they have made some progress. Companies in this batch include, Eastman Kodak, Dow Chemical, Ford Motor and Warner communications to name a few. Clearly the vast majority of U.S. Corporations fall in this category.

In the last category, Sullivan kind of added a face-saving provision by saying that companies in this section passed basic requirements but received a low point rating. Some of these companies were Goodyear Tire and Rubber, The Hoover Company and Raytheon. There were only 19 companies in this area.

In interpreting the results from the report Sullivan said that this report "was one of the best reports on American company efforts since the principles started."

Sullivan said that companies are now moving, "aggressively in efforts to end discriminatory practices not only in the work place but are now confronting aspects of the system and the government itself."

In South Africa today, "blacks are supervising whites we find in larger and larger numbers."

Sullivan said adding, that what must be done is that more aggressive action must be taken not only by American companies, "but companies from around the world . . . as well as government leaders."

If nothing is done in South Africa, Sullivan said "the violence will continue and it will mount and in time it will turn into a full scale chaotic revolution."

"I think that next year might be the fork in the road, for South Africa and despite the recent violent events in South Africa," said Sullivan, still optimistic. "More whites and blacks are talking about conciliation than ever before," adding, "The world wants conciliation."

Sullivan says that he knows that, "half of, the companies doing business in South Africa have only given lip service to change and that's why they were rated, but it will be up to the stock holders," to get those companies to change their attitude.

"When I started this ten years ago, a black man wasn't even legally recognized as a worker in South Africa," Sullivan said. "Blacks didn't even have a legal status of work."

"Now to see the recognition of the independent black trade unions, blacks supervising whites, blacks beginning to move into all white areas, blacks becoming journeymen . . . something unheard of in South Africa . . . and companies saying that they are not going to adhere to apartheid regulations and laws."

"My goodness! that revolutionary," he said.

Dec. 26 a state holiday

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor Harry Hughes announced that he has declared December 26, 1986, as a holiday for State employees.

"Many workers in the private sector will not hve to report on the Friday after Christmas. This declaration gives Maryland's dedicated State employees an opportunity to spend more time with their families during this important holiday," Governor Hughes said.

The Governor said December 26, 1986, will be covered by the same rules and regulations as other State holidays.

In addition to Friday, December 26, being the day after Christmas, this year it marks the beginning of the celebration of the festival of Hanukkah by Maryland's Jewish citizens.

The festival of Kwanzaa, which is celebrated by Afro-Americans across the country also starts on this date.

Community Counseling Offered

The Office of Guidance Services of the Baltimore City Public Schools has opened its Evening Program at four centers: Pimilico Multipurpose - 3319 West Belvedere Avenue, James McHenry Recreation Center - Hollins and Poppleton Streets, Govans Multipurpose Center - 5225 York Road, and Farring Bay-Brook Recreation Center - 4501 Farring Court.

Centers will be open through June 11, 1987 to serve the needs of parents and students who are currently enrolled in a Baltimore City school. Staffed with city school counselors, each center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Some of the issues brought to the counselors include school adjustment courses, personal problems, parenting issues, interest testing, high school and career planning, college and eduational financial aid counseling, and information about citywide and comprehensive schools.

For additional information, the contact person is Patrick Perriello at 396-7124.

Sharing Christmas eases loneliness of foreign students

GAINESVILLE — Sharing Christmas' with American families makes the holiday season less lonely for foreign college students.

Hospitality programs like Christmas Friendship House and Friendship International House are very popular with students who cannot afford to go home, or who wish to know more about America, said Margaretha Micha, foreign student advisor for the University of Florida's International Student Services office.

The programs are often the only contact some foreign students ever have with a real American home, she said.

Christmas International House, which is based in Atlanta, is a private organization. The Nashville-based Friendship International House is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian ministry. Both programs work with local churches and community organizations across the country to sponsor students for a two-week stay either in private homes or church facilities. The emphasis is on family life.

"Most students who come here from abroad to study, leave and go home without ever having seen an American home. Most of their friends are other foreign students. They have no contact with a home situation and they never know, really, what America is and how the people live. After all, everyone doesn't live like in the Hollywood movies," Micha said.

Although the students come from a wide variety of countries and backgrounds, they all have one thing in common, Micha said. "It's hard to come here, without knowing anyone. Some of them are very lonely over the Christmas holidays because they can't go home. It's too far away. How can you go to Africa or India for Christmas?

"And it's a very difficult time to be alone in the United States, because it is a family holiday," she added. "The students feel they ought to be with their families."

Graduate and undergraduate students may participate, if they are at least 18 years old. Married students may bring their wives and children. Students are required to pay their transportation, but room and food are provided.

Special events are frequently included as part of the holiday experience, and these reflect the nature of the host communities. A Malaysian student at the University of Florida was delighted by the Amish family he spent last Christmas with, Micha said. "It was so different for him, almost exotic, and he just loved it."

The available spaces in the two programs fill up quickly during the fall registration, Micha said, especially those in Florida.

By the way...

By Joe Black

For the past three decades Black people have been shouting and inferring that we gained increased pride in our heritage and culture. But is that fact? Or is it just talk for show?

You see, way back when a college education was almost an impossibility for Black people, they gained hope when Cheyney opened its doors in 1839. And Lincoln University offered educational opportunities in 1854. In 1865, the churches recognized the need for ex-slaves to learn readin', 'riting and ciphering, and with the help of The Freedmen's Bureau, they founded Howard University, Fisk University, Tougaloo College, St. Augustine College and Morgan College, to name a few institutions of higher learning.

It's a fact! When Black folks needed them, the Black colleges welcomed them and gave us many of our great doctors, scientists, lawyers and educators. But as the saying goes . . . how soon we forget. Today, when many of these Black schools need the support of Black Americans we are giving them "lip" service rather than the financial support that they need. My friends, many of these Black institutions of higher learning are facing extinction. Black America is not a welfare state; we have annual gross spendable income in excess of $130 billion. That is a definite indication that we can and must help our own community and its centers of education and culture.

But too many of us are busy doing our own thing: young Blacks have accepted the fallacious belief that you can't learn anything in a Black college except how to party or play ball; while middle and upper income class Black families seem to have adopted the attitude of "I got mine, shame on them if they don't have theirs."

We have arrived at the time when we must replace rhetoric with money. Each graduate from a Black college or university should mail a minimum of twenty-five dollars($25.00)to their alma mater each year. You know, the school that we saw may be your own.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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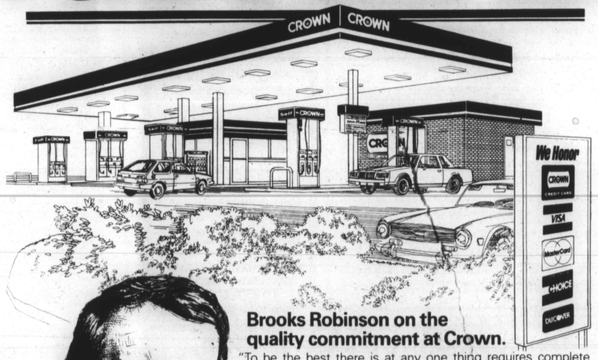

Brooks Robinson
Major League Baseball
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Brooks Robinson on the quality commitment at Crown.

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IF YOU ASK ME

Smiles

J.T.K., writes this week: "I like your new Smiles section in If You 'Ask Me. You are right, it takes only a minute to pause and say something kind about someone you hear or meet who has sunshine in his or her voice. There is so much sadness we need some good things like your Smiles section."

Thanks to reader J.T.K., who also nominates for our smile salute this week Miss Ebid Johnson, a co-worker at his nursing home — which he failed to name, but we hope she'll see it here.

Surprise

More smiles: We were taken by surprise when the youngster in the shopping center approached us and said "your face looks familiar."

Of course, we stopped shopping to ask his name and to find out how he managed to acquire such a pleasant and adult manner.

Get this — he is La Troy Craighead, and he is just 11 years old!! He attends the Robert Coleman Elementary School.

We had young Craighead write his phone number down and when we called he answered the phone, was quick to tell us that he plans to become a gospel singer or engineer when he grows up. He is in the fifth grade at Coleman Elementary and his teacher is Mr. Shiles. Must be an interesting class with Craighead in it.

* * *

Cuff notes: We called back to talk to an adult and reached Troy's grandmother, Mrs. Marjorie Johnson of Walbrook Ave. She confirmed that life is exciting with Troy around.

The youngster's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Craighead, (Ivory). Troy has a brother, 3, and a sister, 5.

Keep your eye on Troy Craighead ... at age 11 he already has demonstrated the ability to make friends. We're glad to include him in our Smiles salute.

More smiles

More people with sunshine in their voices — Mrs. Clifford (Cliff) Boone, who answers the phone at Boone Furniture and Appliance Co. with such grace; and Harry Macer, the retired businessman, who always has a pleasant manner whenever you see him. Which reminds us that Mr. Macer had memorial services last month for his sister, Mrs. Eva Eanes. She was 96.

More sunshine in their voices: Dr. Sidney Kobrethe, journalist, author and teacher, whom many in our community know because of his tireless efforts to promote the Community College of Baltimore, when he was on the faculty. He's authored 15 journalism books and is still going strong.

It's good to know his talents are being used by CCB's 40th anniversary celebration committee.

Cuff note: Dr. Kobrethe was recently awarded a citation by the American Journalism Historian Association for his achievements in writing and teaching journalism history.

Please send your nominations to our Smile Salute section of this column. Let us help you pleasant people you meet along the way. SMILE!

Baby notes

It's a boy for Mr. and Mrs. James M. Abraham, Jr., of Milwaukee, Wisc. Mother is the former Virginia Moore of Baltimore, and Dad, now on a daily newspaper there, is a onetime Baltimore AFRO reporter.

Baby, Adam James Abraham, arrived prematurely on Dec. 16th, weighed 3½ pounds, is doing fine. Happy about the arrival is 18-month-old sister, Adrienne.

Deliriously happy are maternal grands, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moore (Nellie), of Baltimore. Infant is their third grandchild, but first grandson.

And, happy too, is paternal grand, Mrs. Dorothy Henry of Baltimore. Baby makes no. 3 grand for her.

* * *

Roy N. Thomas, Jr., and his wife, Sharon Burnett Thomas are on cloud 9, too. Their second child, Morgan Brittany weighed in at 8 lbs., 2 oz., on Dec. 11 at Sinai Hospital.

Oldest child is 4-year-old Brandon Whitney Burnett Thomas, who attended a class for siblings, was much into presenting mom and grandmoms with roses, etc. Wow, and he's just 4 years old!

Happy grands are Mrs. Zelma Thomas and Roy N. Thomas, Sr., baby is no. 3 for them. Joyful, too, are maternal grands, Dr. Sidney Burnett and Mrs. Vivian Francis Burnett, all of Baltimore.

Jingle bells

Members of Committee X-71 lived up to their reputation as grand hosts on Saturday afternoon.

Their 15th anniversary Christmas party was like old home week, with guests arriving to find hosts in the Yule mood, guests immediately got the message, the "Season's Greetings" exchanges were warm and endless.

The 1-5 event at Blue Crest was a delightful afternoon-dinner and dancing to the music of the Dennis Fisher combo, with soloist Jennifer Jones in good voice.

During the afternoon, members saluted guests marking wedding anniversaries — David and Elsie Scott, wed 39 years, and John and Edith Myers, 45 years. They soloed on the wedding anniversary waltz, then others joined them.

Committee X members are, George Barrick, Malcolm Chamberlain, Marvin Davis, Ben Foreman, Cornelius Griffin, Howard Hartsfield, William Lockwood, Charles Lynch, Cyrus Marshall, Charles Mason, Ernest Murphy, Robert Payne, Lewis Richardson, Wellington Ross, Paul Scott, John Ward, Alfred Woodland and Charles (Granny) Hillen, who remains hospitalized.

Yule message

The following thoughts, entitled "Appreciation" are reprinted from a Christmas issue of Daily Word:

GIVE THE GIFT OF APPRECIATION TO ALL TODAY.

If we wish that we were able to give gifts to others that would add to their joy and happiness, one of the greatest gifts we can give is the gift of appreciation.

Everyone wants to feel appreciated; no one wants to be taken for granted.

Let us give the gift of appreciation to all today.

We can express our appreciation to those with whom we live and work, to those whose lives touch ours today.

There is no person who does not have some admirable quality, who does not have some ability that makes him needed and important in God's world.

Let us let others know that we appreciate them, that we see the good in them, that we recognize their abilities and their worth, that we are thankful for them.

The gift of appreciation builds up, encourages, and gladdens the hearts of those to whom it is given.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind. — I Pet. 3:8.

DHMH announces study of elderly healthcare

Maryland will be among the first states to participate in a comprehensive nationwide study of health care for the elderly (55 and older), Adele Wilzack, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, announced.

The study, conducted by the Southwest Long Term Care Gerontology Center, University of Texas, includes a three-year survey of older citizens and their families to assess the costs, quality, quantity and access to health care.

Secretary Wilzack has established the Advisory Committee for the Long Term Quality of Care Study to provide the study group with information about the state's health care system.

"This study has several unique features which will enable us to make sure that the cost containment measures we have taken in Maryland will not affect adversely the quality of health care for our older citizens," Secretary Wilzack said.

"It will examine not only inpatient hospital care, but also home health care and nursing home care. The survey will allow comparisons with other states which have a different rate setting policy from ours.

"The results of the study will be helpful in formulating policy on health care for the 55-plus population in our state."

Johanna Hawkins Awards given to three city students

Three students of the Baltimore City Public School system: Chanda Richardson, Sharifah Abdul-Saboor and Devin Drummond, have been chosen to receive the second annual Johanna Hawkins Memorial Music Scholarship Awards.

The awards will cover two semesters of private instrumental music lessons for each recipient at the Preparatory Department of the Peabody Institute.

In 1981 the Baltimore City Public School system tragically lost a talented and dedicted young teacher to the ravages of cancer.

Johanna Hawkins embodied the ideals of personal and professional excellence with her work in the musical education of young people.

The Johanna Hawkins Memorial Institute for the Humanities, Inc., is a non-profit organization that has been established to provide scholarship aid to talented, deserving instrumental music students in the city schools.

The Institute,also known as KEYMA, hopes to keep alive Ms. Hawkins's name and dedication to excellence in the arts.

Burned-out Sandtown resident needs community help

The Sandtown-Winchester Improvement Association is soliciting donations to assist a family, whose home and possessions were destroyed when their row house at 925 N. Gilmor Street, went up in flames last week.

The family is now homeless and is being forced to live temporaily with friends. Donations of money, food, clothiing, and household furnishings, may be taken to or sent to the Sandtown Winchester Improvement Association, 1343 N. Calhoun St., between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily.

All money should be sent by check or money order made out to Thelma Smith who is the head of the household which was burned out.

For further information call Jennifer Williams at the Sandtown Winchester office, at 462-1933.

MVA open on Saturday Dec. 20

The Motor Vehicle Administration offices throughout Maryland will be open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday, December 20, 1986, following the policy of providing full service at all offices on the third Saturday of each month.

All Motor Vehicle Administration offices will be closed December 25th and 26th.

Under the Motor Vehicle Administration's staggered license tag and sticker schedule, all automobile owners whose last names begin with the letters D, I, K, and X must renew registrations by December 31, 1986.

Mail-in registration renewal applications must be received by December 19, 1986, to assure owners their license tags and stickers will be received by the end of the month.

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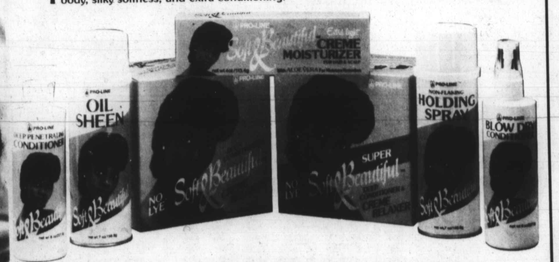

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