Kwanzaa celebration—evokes lively talks, music

Almost 40 people gathered in the Pennsylvania Avenue Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library earlier this week to celebrate the black American cultural holiday of Kwanzaa.

Seated on wooden chairs in the library's lower level were a sprinkling of children and adults — young and old — Monday night, Dec. 29.

Several different groupings of black people gathered to celebrate black history and culture. There were the more traditional, westernized American blacks and those who chose the path and outer wear of Africa and the Muslim world.

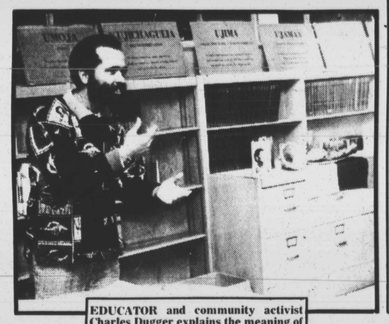
On a file cabinet in the room's front under a wall of windows sat a red, black and green-colored cloth. On it was a large piece of polished wood with seven green and black candles.

Each candle symbolized one of the seven principles on which Kwanzaa is based: Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba and Imani.

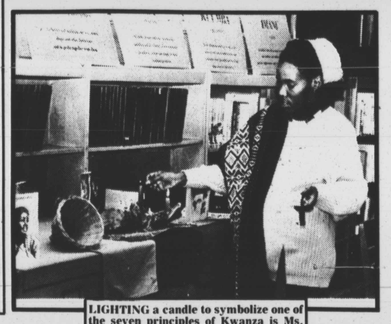
Before the cabinet stood a large potted green plant and to the side sat conga drums. The display on the cabinet also consisted of a wooden cup, a straw horn of plenty and several cards befitting the occasion.

It was a community program and was not dominated by one person even though educator and community activist Charles Dugger served as moderator. He invited members of the gathering to come forward to light the candles and share their thoughts about Kwanzaa.

The crowd was responsive. The discussion was lively and provoked new thoughts. The evening ended with song.



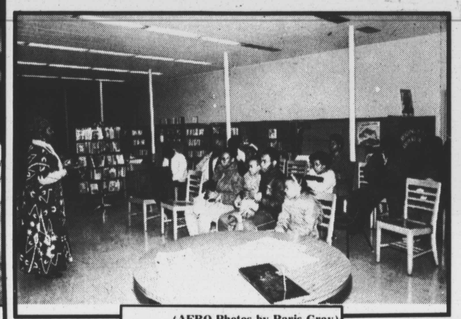
EDUCATOR and community activist Charles Dugger explains the meaning of Kwanza and how black people should incorporate it into their daily lives year round.



LIGHTING a candle to symbolize one of the seven principles of Kwanza is Ms. Deborah Brown-Hopkins.

MEMBERS OF THE audience were invited to come up and speak about the principles of Kwanzaa and how they had a personal meaning. Accepting the invitation is Candance Abi.

MOTHER AND CHILD—Shukriyyah Muhammad and her 9-month old daughter, Ayana were among about 40 people who attended Monday night's Kwanzaa celebration at the Pennsylvania Avenue Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.



(AFRO Photos by Paris Gray)
ADDRESSING THE CROWD—Dr. Ethel D. Umebolu speaks to a small group of Kwanzaa celebrants early in the evening's festivities. The evening also featured music and songs.

Twilah Scarborough

TWILAH SAYS. . .

Greetings of the Season and many good wishes for the coming year

Congratulations

To Ms. Carleathea Johnson, Coordinator, Urban Services Head Start Program, for being awarded the Distinguished Black Women's Award from Towson State University.

James A. Miller, Director of Urban Services' Public Information Office, has been elected President of the Baltimore City Public Information Officers Association. (BPCPIO)

The BPCPIO'S Association consists of representatives from every city agency's PIO unit. It serves as a network to publicize City sponsored programs and special events.

The BCPIO also conducts public relations skills workshops and originates special projects to benefit the City.

Kids Get Free Shoes, Jackest & Bus Rides!

Seventy-five Sandtown elementary school children received free shoes and jackets, courtesy of Sammy's Shoe Store at Fayette and Aisquith Sts.

The Urban Services Transportation division furnished buses to take a total of 75 kids to an from Sammy's on Monday, December 8, Wednesday, December 10 and Thursday, December 11.

25 children each, from the William Pinderhughes Elementary School at Laurens Street, and George G. Kelson Elementary School at 701 Gold Street participated.

This event was coordinated by the Committee United To Save Sandtown; Nathaniel Mackel, President.

That committee, the Baltimore City School System; Clayton Tucker, Director, and the staff of USA Community Support Services, along with Sammy's Shoe Store are all to be congratulated.

(Peacock Awards)

Peacocks are proud and so is Urban Services. Congratulations to the Peacock Award Winners for their service to the Agency:

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Alfred Bellamy, Irving Conway, Ronald James, Stella Spruill, Bernice Williams, Lee Douglas, Evelina Frisby, Bettye Brinkley, William Gonce, Judith Bennick, Catherine Starke, Bryan Crockett, Mary Ross, Lenora Johnson, Lorraine Chapman, Anita Hendricks.

FAMILY SERVICES

Ronnie Lockwood.

EVALUATION

Brenda Davies

P.I.O

William McIllwain, Rachel Wohl.

MANAGEMENT

Dorothy Towler, Lillie Pridgett, Rosa Adams.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Alice Ebb, Audrey Boyce, Tom Forman, Alonzo Lynn, Charles Bellon, Walter Spencer, Barbara Mason, Dennis Fleet.

TRANSPORTATION

Marilyn Dallas, William Scott, Leonard Burke, Otha Walker, Julia Williams, Thomas Holland, Jacques Maultsby, Leroy Siddon, Thomas Hutchinson, Alexander Johnson, Roy Eaddy, Solomon Rose.

SANITATION

Houston Byrd, George Slade, Albert Chambers, James Bradsher, Thomas Hearns.

ENERGY

Matthew Dallas, Joan Owens, Sharon Randall, Thomas Smith, Ronald Myles, Mildred Byrd, Brenda Cooper.

WEATHERIZATION

Marie Shifflett, Gary Oliver, Florence Kerr, Pam Shropshire.

HEALTH & EXERCISE PALACE

Cynthia Bailey

DOLLARS & SENSE

Anne Monroe Bey.

SAGA

Gloria Bagwell, Mary Parker.

BLDG. MAINTENANCE

Paul Levere, Kerney Thompson.

CULTURAL ARTS

Wilbur Cooper, Delvia Myers.

ADMINISTRATION

Diane Smith, Richard Lewis.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Dorothy Jordan.

DAY CARE

Anne Boyd, Teresa Pearson, Joyce Credle, Ruby Anderson.

PROPERTY & SUPPLY

Edward White, Louie Anderson, Thomas Jones.

HEAD START

Pattie Hines.

The language of respect

It's easy to oversimplify these things, but I have an idea that the best thing teachers could do for black students is to teach them, **starting as early as possible, to speak English well.**

Yes, standard English. The sort of English, written and spoken, that we automatically associate with intelligence.

The counterarguments, easy enough to anticipate, are mostly wrong. It's true that standard English is just another dialect in a country full of them. But standard English is the language that marks an American as educated.

Inner-city black children aren't the only ones who have difficulty with the standard dialect. So do Hispanics, Asians, Europeans, and others whose home language is not English.

But black youngsters — particularly boys — are virtually the only ones who actively resist learning standard English.

I think I understand some of the reasons for the resistance. I remember wondering why so many of London's East Enders cling to their Cockney dialect, even while listening daily to the standard English spoken on radio and TV.

It was clear to me that to be identified as a Cockney was to be thought lower class, poorly educated, and not very bright.

Why didn't they abandon their home accent as an unnecessary millstone to their economic and social progress?

The answer, I soon learned, was psychological fear. Suppose they gave up Cockney and, with it, their link to a special place and people, and still fell short of acceptance?

Something similar may be happening here. Children of the black slums, and not only the slums, resist the "enwhitement" of standard English, fearing to cut themselves off from their roots while still not being accepted in the world where standard English is the norm.

A black youngster who speaks "proper" English may find himself in playground squabbles, ridiculed and assaulted for acting "white." Ghettoese become the language of machismo.

I know boys from homes where standard English is routinely spoken who work at learning Ghettoese to win acceptance by their black peers. (Girls somehow manage to escape the problem.)

Teachers could be of enormous help. A sympathetic but tough teacher might tell her young charges that it is of no concern to her what language they use on the playground. But in her classroom, the only acceptable dialect is standard English.

She might explain the different circumstances dictate diferent usages: Black English on the playgrounds, archaic "thees" and "thous in church, and standard English on the job and in the classroom.

Youngsters thus would accomplish what educated black men routinely accomplish: a sort of bilingualism that renders them equally at home at work and play.

Not only would they find themselves more employable on leaving school, but they might also find their schoolwork easier.

And how could teachers help the youngsters acquire standard English without eroding their innate pride in black culture? One retired teacher used to do it by explaining that so-called black English is nothing more than the language slaves learned from their ignorant white overseers.

However it's done, I see nothing but good coming from helping young people acquire facility with the only language that confers instant respect.

For Tomorrow

Education is now. So get-up, get down and apply yourself. You've got just as much brains as anybody else. That's my message. May it spread like a fever and I hope you'll catch it.

See Ya!

About Your Health

By Dr. Derrick K. Matthews
ACNE-PART II-TREATMENT

Treatment of acne is partially dependent on how bad it is. Medication, particularly prescription drugs, have potential side effects that can make them risky in use for mild acne.

Part of the approach to treatment involves personal grooming and common sense. The skin should be kept clean but not over clean. Facial soap should be unscented and gentle to the skin. Scrubbing the skin too much can irritate it causing inflammation, swelling, and breakdown of the pores of the skin. Dirt accumulated from not washing enough can also block skin pores.

Using too much makeup can block skin pores. Water based cosmetics should be used to avoid adding oil to the skin.

Some people react to certain foods such as chocolate, sweets, and grease coaked foods such as McDonald's fries. Avoidance of these foods help acne for such persons.

People with acne should not pinch, pop, or squeeze the pimples of blackheads. Frequently this can cause the walls of the pore to break and spread debris and oil under the skin. This can in turn create more pimples around the original lesion.

In addition to good grooming, many people are interested in the use of medications for acne. There are a large number of over the counter acne preparations in the stores. None of them are very effective without common sense cleanliness, however.

Benzoyl peroxide is the most widely used acne medication in the United States today. The majority of effective over the counter acne medications have this as a major if not exclusive active ingredient.

Benzoyl peroxide works in three ways. It is bacteriostatic, i.e., it inhibits bacterial growth, particularly Propionibacterium acnes. It also helps to breakdown formed comedomes (pimples) and it inhibits sebum production.

Benzoyl peroxide has potential side effects if over used. It can cause excessive dryness and reddening of the skin, which sometimes can be painful. Unfortunately, because it is an over the counter medication, it tends to be over used frequently.

It also takes a while to work. Generally four to six weeks must go by for an appreciable change to occur. This tends to make its users over use it to make it work faster.

Retinoic acid A is a prescription medication and more expensive than benzoyl peroxide. It is applied to the face as a cream, gel, or solution in various concentrations. It is probably the most commonly used prescription medication.

Retinoic acid works in four ways. It prevents formation of comedomes. It helps to breakdown formed comedomes. It helps clear dells from the pore follicle. It increases blood flow through the skin, thereby aiding in clearing debris from the area on the skin.

Side affects or retinoic acid can also occur with too frequent application. Irritation and peeling of the skin are the two major problems.

Isotretinoin (Accutane) is an oral derivative of vitamin A. It is felt to have a strong effect on reducing the size of the sebaceous glands. It is generally used for cystic acne, a severe form with large, purulent, fluid filled cysts.

It can have multiple side effects and this is not the initial drug of choice. Because it is a recently discovered drug the range of side effects is not completely known.

Oral antibiotics have been used in acne treatment for more than 30 years. Both erythromycin and tetracycline are known to decrease tree fatty acids on the surface. They may also reduce the white cell inflammatory response to injured follicles.

As can be seen acne treatment has many approaches which can vary in effectiveness, expense and side effects. Proper grooming is important and helps. It is also important to use medications properly.

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- WHO SHALL BE MAYOR IN 1987? Part 2 in a series, page 5.
- FRIDAY PLUS — 'Mikado' operetta at the Mechanic is exquisite
- LOTTERY — Page 15.

Train wreck survivor

AFRO Photo by Paris Gray

Dorothy Hall, 35, and her son Gavin, 8, both of New York, were among the over 500 passengers on an Amtrak train that collided with a Conrail freight train Sunday, killing 15 people. Mrs. Hall said "everything was going haywire" as the trains collided throwing passengers about. She said it took her 45 minutes to find her son, Gavin, who was struck in the stomach by a chair.

Gen. Assembly opens Jan. 12:

Black Caucus is ready!

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Speculation abounds among members of the Legislative Black Caucus about their relative influence in the new administration, as the 93rd session of the General Assembly in Annapolis prepares to convene next week.

According to one state lawmaker, in the political arena, there are two levers with regard to power—the number of votes available to impact on a decision and the positions of leadership within the arena.

Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings believes these two factors are the yardstick against which to measure the degree of power. There was an overall increase in the number of black legislators to 27, which he guessed was one of the highest numbers of black lawmakers in any state legislature.

He added that the number of blacks in leadership positions has also increased and although the caucus suffered the loss of Del. Larry Young's powerful chairmanship in the House, a top position was gained in the Senate with Clarence Blount, recently appointed chairman of the Economic and Environmental Affairs committee, which served as a balancing effect.

"On the House side, there are 21 delegates whose common denominator is the full leverage of the black community, said Del. Young and to the extent that the 21 adhere to that agenda will determine the caucus's effectiveness."

Del. Young affirmed that the potential is there for the Caucus to exert a powerful influence on the administration and recalled an old African proverb which says, "when spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."

However, Del. Curt Anderson said that Gov.-elect Schaefer will be receptive to well-thought-out proposals and does not think the confrontations that many are an-

Continued on page 2

Library board meets, no action results

By Paula Wagner
AFRO Staff Writer

At a trustee meeting Wednesday, members of the Pratt Library Board failed to make an expected decision on the City Council's recommendations that two of five branches scheduled for closing be kept open because of unfair charges by black community leaders.

The Trustees, led by chairman, Decatur Miller, met to vote on a City Council Library Committee's recommendation that $310,000 of emergency city funds be spent to keep the Dundalk and Brooklyn branches open.

At the same time, closing the Broadway, Pimlico and Keyworth branches, all in predominantly black neighborhoods.

Library director, Mrs. Anna Curry said libraries scheduled for closing were not being well utilized and 'not any branch closing is further than two miles from another branch,' Mrs. Curry said.

But Tom Waters, executive director of Northwest Baltimore Corp. who presented his views at the trustee meeting said 30 years ago when library services were being planned, it was decided that his Northwest community needed three branches.

Now, Waters said, his community of 60,000 about four times its size of 30 years ago, should not have to bare the brunt of having just one neighborhood branch.

Eugene Clark, chairman of the

Continued on page 2

Channel 32, BET, bumped from County Cable system

By P. A. Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

WHMM-TV Channel 32, Howard University's public television station, is crying foul because it was bumped without notice from a high visibility channel to a less accessible channel on Baltimore County's Comcast Cablevision, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN has learned.

Another black oriented television programming service, Black Entertainment Television (BET), has also been having trouble being picked up by Comcast even though it has been trying for more than a year.

Comcast Cablevision of Maryland Vice President and General Manager Mike Doyle told the AFRO, WHHM was notified by telephone the day the station was switched to another channel and that viewer demand determines its programming. Comcast has 40 channels operating in the system, and WHMM came in last in a survey of the most popular public television programming Comcast carries according to officials.

WHMM General Manager Arnold Wallace said his station learned in December that Comcast planned to drop WHMM. Wallace said he called Doyle, but Doyle did not return his call.

Instead, Wallace said he spoke with another Comcast official, Mike Vince. Wallace said Vince assured him WHMM would not be dropped but he indicated the station may be moved and promised he would call ahead to let him know if a change were to be made.

"That move could be months, maybe years away," Wallace said of his conversation with Vince in December and "lo and behold, it turned out to be two weeks."

Doyle confirmed WHMM was moved from Channel 13 to Channel 39. He said Comcast tele-

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Channel 32 bumped from Cable-TV

(See column 1)

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EEOC CHARGES LOTTERY WITH:

Reverse Discrimination

By John Robinson

The federal government has ruled that a 1983 Maryland plan to increase the number of blacks and women in management positions at the State Lottery discriminates against white males.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued the ruling after several white male employees at the Lottery filed complaints of discrimination with the commission. .

Several years ago, the Maryland Commission on Human Relations conducted an investigation into the hiring and promotional practices of the Maryland State Lottery.

Investigators found there was an under-representation of minorities and women in the upper echelon positions at the Lottery. The commission then drew up a plan to increase minority hiring and promotion at the agency.

However, in 1983, Gov. Harry Hughes rejected the commission plan and substituted his own affirmative action edict.

Walter M. Dickerson, state coordinator for equal opportunity, said "both plans made sense to me. My job was to implement a plan and make sure it was done according to the law."

Under Hughes' plan, an existing lower-level position at the Lottery was immediately upgraded to deputy director and a black selected to fill it.

The governor's plan also called for several other management slots to be filled by minorities and women.

Now EEOC has ruled that: "The record evidence revealed that white males were not placed into these positions although some were better qualified than the females and/or minorities selected.

"Examples of discrimination against white males are clearly shown by the fact females and/or minorities were selected for the positions of Deputy Director, Lottery Area Manager and Equal Opportunity Specialist over better qualified white males who applied."

Dickerson heatedly denied that less qualified blacks were hired or promoted over whites.

The ruling by EEOC throws the issue into the lap of the in-coming Schaefer administration.

Hersh Goldberg, spokesman for Gov. Hughes called the EEOC ruling "regrettable," but that the issue was no longer under the control of the present governor. "The next administration will have to respond to it," Goldberg said.

The state can either offer to compensate the white males involved in the case either through promotion or monetary means, or if that fails, EEOC could take the case to the Justice Department for settlement.

POLITICS '87

Attend Kweisi swear-in

(AFRO Photo by P. A. Tatum)

SUPPORTERS—More than 65 supporters of Congressman Kweisi Mfume boarded trains at Pennsylvania Station Tuesday morning to attend the swearing in ceremonies and receptions in honor of Mfume. Among the group were left to right, Robert Wake, Eugene Easter, Eric Brown, and architect Martin Olabegi who came all the way from Atlanta, GA to attend the festivities.

By P. A. Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

More than 65 people climbed aboard a late Tuesday morning Amtrak commuter train to Washington to attend the swearing in and receptions honoring Congressman Kweisi Mfume.

That the group of loyal supporters traveled by train to D.C. was a sure sign of their support for the newly-installed congressman, in light of Sunday's tragic wreck which killed 15 and injured more than 175 passengers.

The mood at the Pennsylvania Station on Charles Street however, was festive as Mfume supporters waited to catch their train which had been delayed about an hour.

Attorney Edward Smith, who acted as Mfume's campaign manager, laughed and joked with many of his fellow travelers. Being serious for a brief moment, Smith said the 7th Congressional District "has lots of needs."

Among the community's priorities are "economic empowerment," Smith said. He hopes Mfume's committee assignment will let him have an economic impact in our community.

Juanita Morrow, with the Department of Social Services, said she had worked with Mfume on his first campaign for City Council, right on through.

"I hope he accomplishes all the goals he has set out to do," Ms. Morrow said. "I hopes he keeps his self - determination and his focus."

Pat Hardy, a respiratory therapist also spoke of economic development for Baltimore City as a desired result of Mfume's tenure in Congress.

"We have a tremendous need in the black community for economic development," she said.

"We see a great problem in moving new business to our district and we need to address teen-age pregnancy problems and problems in foreign affairs." Ms. Hardy said she hoped Mfume will bring a strong moral sense to Congress.

Martin Olabegi, an architect presently living in Atlanta said he returned to Baltimore to celebrate. He said he was one of the first to sign on as a Mfume Congressional campaign volunteer.

"I hope he will be a true representative of black people and the city," Olabegi said.

He was joined by friends Eugene Easter, Robert Wake and Eric Brown. Easter said Mfume will "bring issues to the floor that Congress might normally address because of Mfume's activist background."

Brown said Mfume's first year in Congress will be a learning process. He said the new Congressman has "valid ideas.

Continued on page 2

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS:

New Alliance head

Rev. Dr. Sidney Daniels, of Emmanuel Christian Community Church, was installed as president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Wednesday night. Several other members of the organization were installed during ceremonies at St. John's AME Church in the 800 block of N. Carrollton Ave. Daniels succeeds the Rev. Douglas Miles as president.

In his inaugural address, Rev. Daniels said, 'Baltimore is best only when we make it best.'

Rev. Sidney Daniels

Denied a passport

Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed black South African leader, Nelson Mandela, was recently denied a passport from the South African government to visit Baltimore, where she was invited to speak at a Jan. 15 tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

According to Dr. Levi Watkins, cardiac surgeon and organizer of the annual King tribute at the Johns Hopkins Institution, the invitation to Mrs. Mandela was extended as early as October 1, 1986. Mrs. Mandela accepted immediately, Dr. Watkins said.

South African officials,

Continued on page 2

Winnie Mandela

Resigns school post

Baltimore city school officials have confirmed the retirement of Dr. Anne Emery, executive assistant to the Board of School Commissioners, effective Jan. 1.

The 58-year-old educator was appointed by the School Board, under former head Dr. Robert Embry, for her position in July, 1984. To date, no one has been chosen as her successor.

Dr. Emery who still reports to her office said she will continue to do so until she meets with the Board and new president, Bailey Fine. A date has not yet been set, Dr. Emery said.

Continued on page 2

Anne Emory

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JAN 1987