John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board Publisher
Frances M. Draper
President

Editorial Page

The Afro-American

"There are two prescriptions for success — Faith and Industry"

John H. Murphy
1840-1922

Easter Spirit

Sunday hundreds of thousands of churchgoers will join in fellowship to praise the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

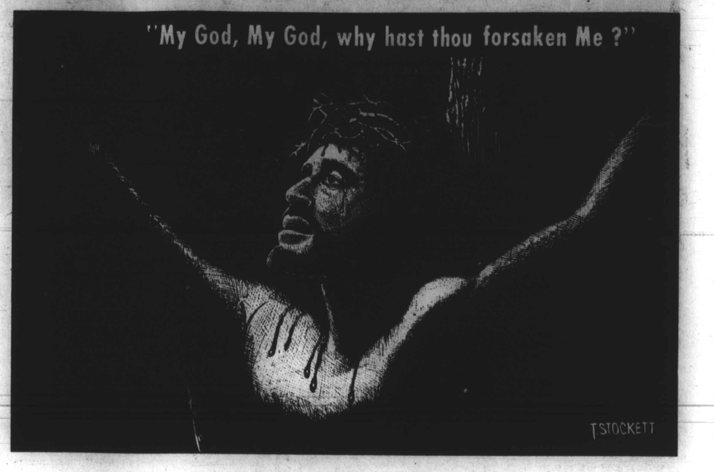
Thomas Stockett, the AFRO's valued cartoonist and artist, this week created a stunning print of Christ asking God to explain the pain and humiliation of crucifixion. The anguished expression and the heartfelt cry of Jesus as portrayed by Stockett are emotions and reactions we all have probably experienced at one time or another.

But, just as there is always an Easter, there is always another day. Problems that seem insurmountable often, by the light of day, lose their power and dread.

This is not to say we should just relax and wait for our problems to disappear. Rather we must remember the spirit of Easter.

Easter represents renewal in the midst of decay; rebirth ano regeneration after death. It represents what comes to faith and good works — an opportunity to once more walk in the sunlight of another day.

Let us not despair as we bear our crosses. Instead, we should have faith in the promise of another day, and work to make that promised day much better than the preceding 24 hours.



Judgement made

The people have spoken and this time the legislators heard them. A controversial bill would have taken away the right to elect circuit court judges was defeated in committee this week in Annapolis.

The bill, which was sponsored by Gov. Schaefer, would have stripped state citizenry of an opportunity to help decide who sits in judgement of them.

Gov. Schaefer's supporters claimed that lawyers and government officials were better qualified to judge the worth of a potential judge.

That argument would be a sound one if only lawyers and government officials stood before the bar of justice as defendants.

But the general citizenry, who must bear the weight of judicial decisions, should also have a share in determining who is on the bench.

We must praise a legion of elected officials, judges and concerned citizens who went to bat to stop this abrogation of our rights.

Above all, the Legislative Black Caucus, under the leadership of Decatur. Sen. Decatur Trotter of Prince Georges County, is to be commended for the wisdom and legislative savvy necessary to smash this onerous piece of legislation.

Schmoke signals

Once more Mayor Schmoke is being besieged by the conservatives of City Council. This time they claim he acted peremptorily in stripping a city official criticized the mayor's plans. The same official also criticized his own boss.

Now let's be serious. In any private corporation, such an act of disloyalty would be dealt with swiftly. Schmoke is to be commended for exercising prudent restraint in taking the limited action he took.

Councilmen Landers, Cunningham et al are all big boys, and they should refrain from using the demoted official as a political football. Whose cause do they serve by doing so?

The issue in City Hall right now is simple. In December we discuss how Schmoke's administration would have to come to grips with those who would turn the clock back.

The Council and Mayor Schmoke are fighting over who will control the city — who will control the patronage, the jobs, the influence of the City of Baltimore.

The recalcitrant City Councilman fail to realize that the past is the past. The majority in the city are attempting to exercise powers which, by dint of numbers and duration of citizenship, should be ours by right.

Where there is Schmoke these days, there is fire, especially under the dome of City Hall. But the Schmoke signals that are going up are positive ones, as our mayor attempts to come to grips with regressive forces.

Now the City councilmen may be responsible for their districts, but the last time we looked, Mayor Schmoke was elected as a citywide candidate, to serve the entire city.

Let's give Mayor Schmoke the space he needs, and see the depressingly consistent complaints of the Council conservatives for what they are—the carping of men unwilling to admit that their days and their ways are done.

Our Readers Write

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication. Write
The AFRO-AMERICAN
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Of silver linings

By Fred Nastvogel
Baltimore

So what is happening in City Council these days? New interesting ideas about education, about jobs? Serious positions on water and air quality, on the issue of Peach Bottom? A fertile and fresh pluralism?

Hardly! It seems most of the time is being taken up by a few Ole Boys shaking sticks at the wind. There was question K. Then there was the matter of committee assignments. And now we have to hear a big mess about whether the Mayor has the right to tell a $56,000-a-year favor-do-er to get in line.

What's going on is obvious. The same poeple who 20 years ago were listening fondly to Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" can't swallow the reality pill. The days when a white man could go anywhere and say "Ah, Lookie here..." are over.

The new administration exhibits considerable vitality, and dignity. But the Mayor can't possibly prevail if all the hope is put on him. Each of us has got to put it on himself, and then take action on it.

One way is the phone. Let the people at City Hall and Annapolis know what you think about what they are doing. After all, you're going to talk to someone about it anyway. Why not the person responsible? The numbers are in the phonebook.

Neighborhood stores should sell post cards pre-addressed to our representatives. Once a week you write down what you think. Drop it in a mail box. Get it off of your chest. Because don't forget, elected officials read mail as closely as they count votes.

And there would be nothing wrong with secondary school students being given assignments that require them to read the newspaper, form opinions, express them in writing, and mail them off.

The point is this. In our metropolitan area, there are lots of people with lots of valuable experience and insights, love and faith. We can do much better than what we have seen in City Council so far in this administration. The first step is to let them know we see them playing with our future.

Disappearing heirs

I am an instructor in Newton Gresham Library and I am researching the life of George H. Wanton, a black soldier who won the Medal of Honor in the Spanish-American War.

I recently have moved to Texas from Miami, Fla. My research originally involved a white Indian trader named Edward M. Wanton, who was involved in negotiating a treaty between the Seminole Indians and the United States around 1821. Upon further research, I discovered that his heirs were "free people of color" who held slaves and land in the area near modern Gainesville. I have traced some of his children to 1880. I have also contacted a family still living in Florida who are probably Wanton's descendants.

A big problem that I am encountering is the disappearance of his heirs. An intriguing possibility is that some moved to New Jersey during the 1860's. A William Wanton and a George Wanton appeared in Paterson around this time. Two of his heirs have the same names. Both are black. George won the Medal of Honor during the Spanish-American War. Edward's mother was probably a Loyalist who arrived in Florida during the American Revolution.

I have a newspaper clipping from Paterson, N.J. that indicates that George H. Wanton lived in Washington, D.C., from 1925 until his death in 1940. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors around Nov. 29, 1940.

If possible, could you supply any articles, obituaries, etc. that deal with George H. Wanton. I am hoping that since he was a prominent military man, your newspaper might have reported on his life or death.

Frank Marotti, Jr.
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, Texas

Editor's Note: The AFRO is on microfilm at most large libraries.

What a great delight it was to see the wonderful write-up of the American Cancer Society Patient Services Campaign in the Feb. 19 issue of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN. It is so nice to know that we can count on the AFRO to continually support our programs.

We have received numerous calls as a result of the article. Please be assured that the AFRO has helped make lives better for cancer patients in the District.

Many thanks for your continuing support and interest.

LOIS N. CALLAHAN
Director
Public Relations
American Cancer Society

Political Consultant

Anthony Armstrong

Economic Violence

(Part II)

American voters will vote for a person, and they will vote of a message; but American voters do not vote just for a process. Process doesn't levy taxes, or make selection of federal judges, or decide whether or not to deploy troops.

New York governor, Mario Cuomo, put it this way, "A campaign has to have a "why" to it, it simply isn't enough to be well financed and well organized".

If anything is proving to be so in this presidential campaign it is that a cogent message, delivered by a riveting orator still plays well in Peoria and other hamlets and cities all over America.

Governor Dukakis brings America ethnicity, process, organization - little more, so far. Indicatively, clearly 50 percent of Connecticut voters who voted for Dukakis say they wish someone else was running.

Jackson offers America himself, and the message of the 88 campaign. It is a message of a winnable future, with routes for getting America there.

Not even during the worse economic times - including Depressions - was such a permanent and massive reversal of national fortune thought possible, in this bountiful country. Yet, this and subsequent generations are in real danger of being the first to do poorer than our parents before us. In this situation, process and organization alone, do not work. A person and a visionary message is what such circumstances require.

Before, America's economic wounds had always healed. A downturn was but the platform on which we launched the next late great boom. Back then there was some relative balance. When anyone got cut everyone got cut; we bled collectively. America, in fact the entire world, has seen a major dislocation since those pre-1960's days.

Item: Until a few weeks ago if you graduated from college with a degree in the Liberal Arts - beware - Citibank may not have wanted you as a credit card customer. Their statistics said you probably wouldn't earn enough to comfortably afford your monthly payments.

Item: In California, State Farm Insurance, under force of a court order, just changed its corporate policy of not hiring women as insurance agents. To understand the economic impact of the violence done to women by State Farm, remember that California's would be the eighth largest economy in the world if it were a separate country.

The settlement cost the insurer tens of millions in back pay; State Farm policy holders (undoubtedly a lot of you readers) will probably pay this cost through "slightly" higher premiums.

Item: If you have outstanding tuition loans in arrears, and you're a black former college student, the rest of us should beware - because you're a thief. This according to a recent **Wall Street Journal** article quoting one federal education official.

Tuition lenders, on the other hand, are enjoying an economic bonanza, in the form of refunds from the U.S. Treasury, of course.

Because of "outsourcing" - the term used for transferring American manufacturing jobs abroad - millions of workers are seeing terrible violence being done to their careers, their families, their economic and physic tranquillity, to their whole way of life.

Procurement agents think nothing of charging hundreds for a monkey wrench, and the government apparently has no problem paying it. Billion dollar high-tech welfare called cost overruns is business-as-usual for defense contractors.

Children live in violence cubicles, called welfare hotels, that cost New York's taxpayers $50,000 a year.

Million dollar annual profits accrue to slum landlords who still have the audacious temerity to scream that any violence being perpetrated is on their profits and their buildings - all of which, it should be noted, are woefully dilapidated already.

Wall Street is awash in assett-consuming mergers and acquisitions deals, structured by well dress Yuppies drunk on easy money. The dabblings add little to America's economic strength, competitiveness, or productivity, but everything to the pockets of far too few.

Their brand of economic violence is thought to be so sophisticated that only a toot on some good cocaine can keep the head clear enough to understand what's happening. Main Street America, however, knows what's happening - greed!

Wall Street, it seems, differs from the economic violence of the drug dealer only in the commodity they sell. Some corporations still slip through the year with nickel and dime tax bills, while the CIA gives money - millions and millions at a clip - to state sponsored drug dealers like Panama's Noriega.

It's economic violence, every dollar, yen, mark, and pound of it; and it weighs heaviest on all the average Joes and Janes who some political writers, including The Chicago Tribune's Mike Royko, feels Jackson offends, with such a clear and sensible message.

In some people's world I guess a truth said best is a truth not said at all. America's Mike Royko believe the silence shouldn't even be heard.

In the case of Mike Royko, remember he hails from the land of the political kiss-of-death, Chicago. Perhaps he's been warned to lay-off telling any truths about 88's strongest message, and surely he'll have little positive to say about the messenger.

In presidential years it's permissible to beat up on messengers, and toss their messages in the trash can - especially when you can't accept either. Royko's, and others, attacks on Jesse Jackson could just be sour grapes, upset that he didn't coin "Economic Violence" himself.

Worse still, perhaps it's the presses' idea of a stinging salve to be rubbed on America's collective mind, to reduce real fears and words some of us hate to hear - particularly from Jesse Jackson.

I know Jesse Jackson cuts at you Mike; but economic violence cuts at all of us. I'm afraid we'll just have to let you bleed, and let Jesse - loudly if he must - go on trying to stop the hemorrhaging that economic violence is causing all America to suffer.

Page Opposite

Kweisi **Mfume**

Member of Congress
Seventh District
Maryland

Civil rights restored

The American people issued a cry and Congress answered it by overriding President Reagan's veto of the most important civil rights legislation to come before the 100th Congress — the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988. It was the first time that a president had vetoed a civil rights bill in 120 years.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act overturns the 1984 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Grove City College v. Bell. In that case, the Court ruled that laws barring discrimination do not apply to entire institutions, only to the specific program or activity receiving federal funds.

The Supreme Court's decision dealt specifically with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which bar discrimination on the basis of sex.

For example, if a college's archeology department received federal research grants, but the economics department did not, the federal law prohibiting schools from discrimination on the basis of sex would apply only to the archeology department and not the economics department.

In the 20 years prior to the Grove City decision, anti-discrimination laws were generally applied to entire institutions if any program within those institutions received federal funds.

As a result, the 1984 ruling was a major blow to the promotion of civil rights as a fundamental test of justice in this society.

The Supreme Court's narrow interpretation of Title IX in the Grove City case has resulted in the Justice Department dropping anti-discrimination suits — even in cases where the evidence has been overwhelming — because the discriminating program did not receive federal funds.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act clarifies Congressional intent with regards to the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and other important civil rights laws — the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race; the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, which prohibits discrimination against the disabled; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which porhibits discrimination against the elderly.

After years of debate, it is now clear that if one part of an entity receives federal funds, the entire institution is covered under anti-discrimination laws.

Rarely has a piece of legislation been the victim of a disinformation campaign as intense as the surrounding the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

My offices and those of my colleagues were flooded with calls from citizens who were tricked into believing that the bill would force hospitals to perform abortions and require colleges controlled by religious groups to accept policies that conflict with their religious beliefs.

As proof that these contentions were unfounded, the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Baptist Joint Committee, the United Methodist Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the American Jewish Congress, and the Presbyterian Church endorsed the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

And so, we have reached the end of what is only a beginning — a beginning in the embarrassing honest expose' of the American culture as it truly is. But such was the task of the Civil Rights Movement — to expose the truth. Indeed, we've only just begun in our quest for that truth.

And a basic American fact is that one racial group (called "white") has subjugated all the other racial groups (called "non-white"). Further, it is a truth that this subjugation has almost been given dignity, legality, and justification by the culture in that "Constitutional" sounding labels have been attached to the groups.

The labels are: (a) majority (ascribed to the "white" group), and (b) minority (ascribed to the "non-white" groups). This is no accident or coincidence; for the term "majority" implies "major," while the term "minority" implies "minor."

Thus, the white race has legalized itself as the "major" race; while it has legalized the non-white races as the "minor" races, creating a "caste" system.

This is significant because the terms which the United States of America claims to hold dear are: (a) democracy, and (b) majority rule. The dictionary defines "democracy" as a "state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges." Yet it is obvious that America's non-whites are continually denied those rights and privileges which whites continue to enjoy.

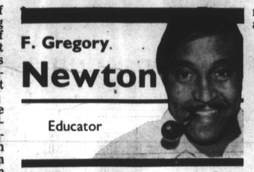
The term "majority rule" originally meant: "the votes in the majority shall rule," through the use of "racial labelling," however, the term has been cleverly corrupted to mean: "the race in the majority shall rule." It is this "racial" theme which has made and still makes America, not a democracy, but a "racial monarchy."

Therefore, if "democracy" is the American dream, and "racism" is its nightmare, then those Americans who insist that theirs is democracy are "dreaming within a nightmare." For this is the true America. The other is yet a dream. And so, we should be not angry with those who dare to speak the truth of what America is.

Perhaps we should be angry instead with America — who dares to claim she is what she is not — in matters of democracy and civil rights. Thus, the American culture is guilty of an un-Constitutional act — the act of determining majority rule by "race," rather than simply by "votes."

If we are implored to go slow, we must quicken our pace. We must be as relentless and untiring for freedom and dignity as others might be against it. For freedom is the "soul," dignity is the "self," and growth is the "fulfillment of life." And for these we must be profound. The incomparable Frederick Douglass stated it this way:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire;
It is not the gentle shower, but thunder.
We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake;
For the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed."



F. Gregory **Newton**

Educator

The end of a beginning

AFRO SURVEY

Jo-Anne Allen

Linda Wilkes

Carlton Molette

Matthew Bowie

Do you think Jackson will go all the way?

Jo-Ann Allen, 22, secretary, "I don't think he will win because of the mere fact that he's black. He also has never held an office. I don't believe America will let that happen. He may get the nomination, but not the Presidency. It will be good if it happens. In any case, he has opened some doors that had been shut for a long while."

Linda Wilkes, 34, (administrative assistant, "I think Jesse Jackson's chances look good. I like the fact he's doing as well as he is, and it is good that a black is getting the kind of recognition he is getting. But, Americans, meaning the majority, are not ready for a black president."

Carlton Molette, 47, educator, "I think that the most important thing is not whether he can win it all or not. I think his message, combined with other things he represents, is the most important thing. The other thing is we as blacks stand to gain tremendously from finishing a strong second . . . Therefore, it is not a win-lose situation."

Mathew Bowie, 57, director of alumni, "I don't think he has much of a chance. It's unfortunate that he can't win it all. I feel the majority of people in the country aren't ready for a black president. I don't feel it makes a great deal of difference who is actually elected. I feel it will take a lot of hard work from a lot of people to turn this country around."

Booker Braddy, III, 38, director of central receiving, "I believe in the process. If he has the delegates he should get the nomination. If he gets the nomination, he should have a good chance of getting elected President. His message is an American message, not just a black message."

Joseph Boyce, 49, librarian, "His chances of winning are excellent. The time is right for a black man to make it to the top. There was a time when we didn't feel a black could be mayor of this city."

Sheri Khattack, 58, librarian, "I don't know if he will win or not, but he is who I am going to support. I feel this U.S.A. is the greatest democracy in the world and the people would like to see this democracy flourish. One way to prove it is that Jesse Jackson be given a chance on the basis of his ability, leadership, and divine personality."

Charlene Baker, 22, clerk, "I think his chances are strong. I believe he's getting the support he needs."

Booker Braddy, III

Joseph Boyce

Sher Khattack

Charlene Baker

St. George I.B. **Crosse**

Manager,
Baltimore Field Office:
HUD

Fair Housing: 20 years under the 'law'

In the 20 years since passage of the Federal Fair Housing Law, Title VIII, Civil Rights Act of 1968, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has worked with other groups in the private and public sectors to recognize, annually, the anniversary of the signing of the Act.

This commemoration, held during the month of April, includes a number of educational outreach activities such as a National Poster Contest, Fair Housing Awards Ceremonies, and public service announcements, which are designed to increase public awareness of the Law.

The Fair Housing Month commemoration is conducted in every state in the country and it has had immense impact on ensuring fair housing for all citizens.

During April, 1988, the Baltimore HUD Office will participate in the 20th anniversary ceremonies in recognition of the National Fair Housing Law. A committee, comprised of staff from the Baltimore HUD Field Office, is planning a series of activities to be held in Baltimore and around the state of Maryland using the National theme - "Fair Housing: Building a Nation of Neighbors."

Although actual dates and times for activities have not been finalized, a few of the activities planned are listed below:

Notice has been received from 17 school districts in the state with a commitment to participate in the Fair Housing Month Poster Contest. The contest, is open to all public, private and parochial school children in grades kindergarten through nine and special education. It is designed to give children some exposure to the Law by conducting an educational activity that is duplicated nationwide.

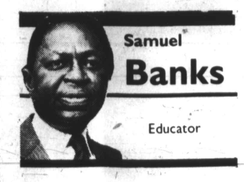
Plans are also underway to hold a Fair Housing Awards Ceremony honoring Maryland citizens who have made significant contributions in the field of Fair Housing.

Statewide Proclamation Signing Ceremonies will be held on April 11, 1988, at 12 noon with chief elected officials around the state simultaneously signing proclamations for Fair Housing Month. At the same time President Reagan will sign the National Proclamation in Washington, D.C.

Legislative Summary — Title VIII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1968, the Federal Fair Housing Law prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and national origin. Further, the law requires HUD to administer its programs in a manner that affirmatively promotes fair housing.

The Federal Fair Housing Law, Public Law 90-284 enacted by the 90th Congress on April 11, 1968, stipulates that "It is the policy of the United States to provide, within constitutional limitations, for fair housing throughout the United States."

The Baltimore HUD office has advised its recipients that it is mandatory that HUD program participants undertake outreach activities which may include fair housing counseling.



Samuel **Banks**

Educator

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Twenty Years later

Twenty-years ago before the tragic and brutal death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., there was an electrifying and wondrous sense of expectancy and hope for better days ahead experienced by black citizens, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and impoverished white citizens because of the courageous and powerful witness of the "Non-Violent Apostle from Atlanta."

His vibrant, insistent and pristine message was urgent and direct: "Unmerited suffering is redemptive." To the very end, against mountainous and iniquitious odds, he championed and espoused human possibilities, redemptive love and human reconciliation.

On April 4, 1968 on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. King was fatally wounded while preparing to lead a march in support of Memphis' predominantly black sanitation workers.

The paroxysms of violence, upheaval and utter despair and incredulity that followed the news of Dr. King's death shook our nation with seismic proportions.

A gentle, prophetic, erudite and sage for all seasons who counternance and exemplified nonviolence had met with a violent death that unsettled our nation and the world.

In spite of his untimely death 20 years ago in Memphis, Dr. King still lives in the might "Dream" he proclaimed at the base of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963 and through his imperishable acts of kindness and love in support of social justice, equity and a more humane social order.

It falls to all of us to keep his memory and extraordinary witness alive through community building, working for a sense of community and respect and love for each other. In short, we must regain that loving feeling for each other.

Dr. King, too, understood and appreciated the intricate and demanding nature of struggle. He exemplified through deeds, the stirring and oft-quoted prescription offered by Frederick Douglass on August 14, 1857, regarding the nature of struggle. Douglass said, in part:

"This struggle may be a moral one, or may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."

Dr. King used his perspicacious mind, mellifluous voice and restless spirit, in season and out of season, in fierce and fearless opposition to racism, religious, bigotry and sexism.

The marvelous standard that he set for us should serve as a beacon for all of us, twenty years after his death, to join the struggle for a more caring, just and equal body politic. In this sense, Dr. King's life and memory will not be in vain.

In terms of the ongoing struggle for social justice and equality of opportunity, Dr. King believed that education was a vital and potent tool for political and economic empowerment.

He reflected this belief through his remarkable record of academic achievement at Morehouse College, Crozier Theological Seminary and Boston University. High quality education, as it was for Dr. King and his contemporaries, remains the passport to success in our society.

Finally, 20 years after Dr. King's death, each of us is challenged to take the leap of faith for an improved social order for all citizens. Dr. King states the point aptly and forcefully in his book,

Why We Can't Wait:

"For whatever demand the Negro justly makes on his fellow citizens are not an effort to lift responsibility for himself. His tasks are still fundamental, involving risks and sacrifices which he has already prepared himself ready to make. In addition, he will have to learn new skills, new duties, and creatively and constructively to embrace a new way of life. Ask a prisoner released after years of confinement in jail what efforts he faces in taking on the privileges and responsibilities of freedom, and the enormity of the Negroes' tasks in the years ahead becomes clear."

Each of us, with the advent of spring, can show, in earnestness and deep resolve and deeds, that we appreciate and affirm the immortality of Dr. King's witness, by a zesty demonstration of love, respect and advocacy of human uplift for all. Now is the time to move and work for human amelioration, human renewal and uplift.

The awful roar of the struggle for demonstrable excellence in all endeavors, social justice and equity is upon us. How will you respond now and in the future? Always know that not to make a decision is to make a decision.