I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:
"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. — 1929-1968.

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 12, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO - AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven.
CARL MURPHY (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher (1922-1967)

Racial demagogue

Article 4 of the Baltimore City Code (the law enforced by the Baltimore Community Relations Commission), defines discrimination as any difference in the treatment of any individual because of race, color, religion, et. al.

Nowhere is a particular race mentioned. Therefore, it must be concluded that this law applies to whites, blacks, orientals, australoids or any other racial group which can be defined.

Demagoguery is defined by Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary as "the practice of . . . a leader who makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power".

These two terms have been brought together recently in the person of Hyman Aaron Pressman, city comptroller (a true demagogue), in his grossly unfair attacks on the Baltimore Community Relations Commission.

In using another term—"reverse discrimination" — Pressman shows his inability to understand (or his deliberate attempt to misrepresent) the passage in Article 4 quoted above.

Discrimination against whites is just as illegal as discrimination against blacks. No special term needs to be used to cover whites in discriminatory situations.

Persons who use such terms usually mean that their advantage as whites no longer applies. The term "reverse discrimination" is a red flag term which should be put in the category with others such as "forced busing" and "states rights".

Frequently, even in off-election years, Pressman, in his zeal to get the attention of the media, resorts to the tactics of the demagogue which he truly is (using the definition above).

This time, Pressman has attempted to use the Community Relations Commission and its director, John P. Feron.

In the past, other predominately black city departments have had that "distinction".

Evidently, Pressman received a complaint from a disgruntled white Community College of Baltimore employee who had filed a complaint with CRC and instead of trying to get the facts, Pressman preferred to use the situation to grab headlines.

The fact is that any case which is filed with CRC or any similar agency, locally or throughout the nation, takes an average of 6 to 12 months to investigate and resolve.

So in truth, this complainant received unusually swift action if his statement that he filed his case in June is true.

Obviously, Pressman was not interested in truth but rather in personal publicity and an appeal to white voters.

We ask his many black supporters to remember this when election time comes around and also to remember his attacks on other black-staffed agencies.

Also, visit Pressman's office and see for yourself if, in a city which is 55 per cent black, his staff has any black representation.

We ask thinking white voters to seriously question a person who feels the need to use racism as a way of promoting himself in public office in the year of 1977. Haven't we, the citizens of Baltimore gotten beyond that? The AFRO hopes we have.

First things first

Before Baltimore's black politicians can get a crack at defeating J. Randall Carroll for his clerk's job at the courthouse they have to assure that the Carroll post will be an elective one next time around.

If the Mandel Administration-sponsored H.B. 697 becomes law and the clerk jobs in the courthouse are combined under one elected clerk who appoints his own deputies, we'll have an entirely new ball game.

Thus it obviously is most important for blacks to flex their muscles in the General Assembly to kill this legislation (H.B. 697-S.B. 355).

The only way blacks could live with this law would be if it is amended so that the Supreme Bench has the authority to appoint the one clerk who would name the deputies, there is an affirmative action provision and the section is deleted which would permit civil suits to be moved out of the city without reasonable contention defendants could not get a fair trial in the city.

In short, it is dangerous for black politicians to assume at this point that they will have an opportunity to vote on Carroll.

It also is dangerous to assume at this point that there is going to be any kind of unity on the mayor's race, which also could become entangled with the clerkship contest if only one is to be elected.

The first order of business on the agenda is taking care of Mandel's judicial scheme.

City Hospitals dispute

Whatever problems exist at City Hospitals, responsibility for most of them must rest with Mayor Schaefer and his administration.

Here we have this multi-million dollar tax-supported health facility bumbling along with 1 of its top positions vacant and, to add insult to injury, along came some of Schaefer's hot-shot fix-up money counters to proclaim the institution has fallen into a state of anarchy with a not too-vague warning that even more heads may roll.

According to finance director Charles Benton and his hot-shot investigators, most of whom are led by non-Baltimoreans, among the hospital's "first line supervision, no one seems to give a damn."

We doubt that's true.

But if it were, would it be because the Schaefer Administration has tolerated this situation at the hospital where the top administrative ranks have been decimated.

How much of a burden does Schaefer and Benton expect the hospital's leadership to handle with the kind of vacancy situation existing at the institution?

An example of their own efficiency seemed to have been displayed when they conceded that the city's financial experts who descended upon City Hospitals to set things right in a short period of time, will require about six additional months of work on the project.

We doubt they'll have it done properly then.

City Hospitals is an important health facility and the Classified Municipal Employees Association and the Maryland Nursing Association were disturbed with good reason at some of the bombastic and totally unnecessary self-serving language employed by Benton and his critical cohorts.

Baltimoreans who foot the bills for City Hospitals aren't interested in a lot of shrill accusations from tax-paid experts who are supposed to be getting the institution functioning the way it should be in the fiscal department.

It also occurs to us that if Benton and his people spend all their time at City Hospitals, where qualified staff people should be doing the job, something is going to suffer back in the finance and audits departments.

Dangerous KKKer

Blacks in Maryland should watch closely to see how the justice system treats Ku Klux Klan exalted cyclops William Marx Aitcheson.

This 23-year-old Clarksville racist has been charged in Howard and Carroll counties on counts including possessing, dealing in and manufacturing explosives without a permit.

When he was arrested a few days ago the KKKer had been free on his recognizance after having been charged by Prince George's County authorities in connection with such things as six cross burnings and writing threatening letters to Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.

The KKKer, a student at the University of Maryland, has been described by a KKK infiltrator as "unstable and extremely dangerous" and who planned a revolution against blacks and Communists.

Specific targets reportedly included the NAACP.

One undercover agent said a bomb was passed to him with instructions to "bomb some black people."

According to insiders the KKKer was teaching young people how to maim and kill.

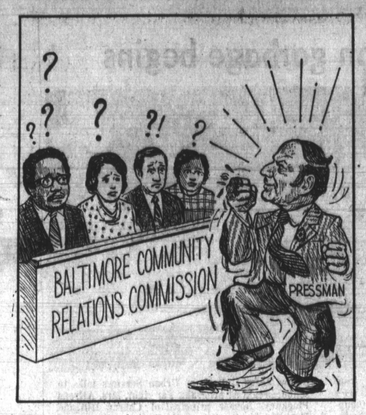
Although these things still have to be proved in court, they sound like gruesome racist business.

We don't support unduly high bails and thus won't take a negative view of the fact that the KKKer was out on his own recognizance when he was arrested the second time. He now is being held under $500,000 bail.

What we do support, for all criminal elements, is jail or treatment terms commensurate with their crimes or unstable conditions.

The jail or treatment term this KKKer gets should be a meaningful message for black Marylanders.

Reduce the probe time for whites!!!



Now and then
Another word on 'affirmative' action

by g. james fleming

Last column we pointed to the fact that "affirmative action" is in trouble, so far as that term means easing the way for young blacks to be enrolled in the most prestigious universities and professional schools. We noted, in passing, that the present attacks also are being made in industry.

One of the unfortunate byproducts of "affirmative action" in education is the idea, often repeated, that all black students in the "best" colleges and professional schools are academically poor students "who could not make it" except for "affirmative action" or, more cruelly, except for "discrimination in reverse."

That is just not true.

There are thousands of black young men and women who did not need any special treatment and asked no favors from the institutions where they are now enrolled. They remain as students, also, without any special favors. They are the coming architects, doctors and dentists, engineers, social workers, lawyers and others.

These men and women are just as able, academically, as are their counterparts in sports, the latter of whom ask no athletic favors to get and stay on the playing fields.

The charge being made, that some blacks are being admitted to educational institutions with lower grades than whites who have been denied admission, has also cast a cloud over blacks in higher education in past years. There are some non-blacks who are questioning whether blacks who have "made it" at Ivy League, Big Ten and other institutions were also beneficiaries of special favors, of "discrimination in reverse."

No such thing. Instead, most of the time, they have found themselves discriminated against. In the South, educational doors were closed to them by law; in the North by all kinds of arrangements. The exceptions were few and far between.

—

Even when an institution might admit liberal arts students, it would, or might, refuse blacks to its medical school; where an institution might admit blacks to its football team, it might refuse them the opportunity to play on its basket ball team; where women were admitted, black women might be "excused" from swimming, which was mandatory for all other women, and black women would find they were shut out of dramatics.

Worst of all, there have been instances, even recently, of discrimination in the marking of papers and the giving of grades.

By and large, blacks have not been pampered in universities and professional schools. At best, they have been treated as men and women, capable of carrying their own loads.

—

BAR EXAMS — It may well be that there is no racial discrimination in the bar exams given by the State of Maryland. It may be that there are other reasons why only 6 per cent black law school graduates pass these examinations, to 70 per cent of whites.

It is very suspicious, however, when at least one of the bar exams was found to have a "c" written on it. The affected examinee claims that said alphabet identified the examinations as written by a black person. U.S. District Judge C. Stanley Blair, on the other hand, believed the board that the "c" was only an administrative code.

Excuse us blacks, however, if "c" means "colored" when it appears on such forms as job applications, personnel records, and law examinations (when not indicating a grade). What is true of "c," is also true when two or three black dots are used to indicate nonwhite or black.

There may not be discrimination against blacks in the examination process of state boards of law examiners but, in every jurisdiction, where blacks have protested hard enough, and where blacks have achieved some political clout, the number of blacks passing the examinations has increased. The same phenomenon has occurred when a black examiner or a member has been added to the board for the first time.

Blacks themselves, have lots to do "making the grade." We do not need extra burdens, not even a stray "c" in the wrong place.

Prison site deal made long, long ago

By Oliver F. Holmes

I have been following very closely and with great interests the kinds of manipulations concerning the prison site in the old Continental Can building.

It appears to me that according to the outcome the Continental building will be converted to become the new prison.

The so called center will serve as a rehabilitation center for inmates who are about to be released and return once again to society.

For years the state officials were trying to get communities throughout the city of Baltimore to come to accept community rehabilitation centers for the city. Most communities rejected the concept for such centers to be located in their boundaries.

But at the same time we all were concerned about doing something very constructive to aid prisoners to be better prepared to come back to society.

—

The residents around the areas protested the proposal to make the old Continental building the new correction center. The residents certainly have every right to protest and demand this prison site be located some where else, rather than have the prison located in their own back yards.

I don't blame the residents, but more explicitly this site was chosen long before the residents had any inkling as to where the new site for the prison would be.

—

It seems that political representatives, both on the state and city level had not been informed, or that some underhanded exchanges were done to recommend this Continental site as the available one for the new prison.

Furthermore, it appears that all studies were completed and the recommendation forwarded and accepted by Governor Mandel.

That is where the real issue lies at this time.

Surely, the residents, after hearing about this possible site for the new prison to be located, were like trying to lead the horse from the barn, after the barn had been destroyed by fire.

The indication is that there is nothing that residents can do, but to raise hell and to be heard in Annapolis: although they can not supersede the governor, the chief executive for the state of Maryland.

It will be totally impossible for the residents' request to be granted as not to have the state place the new prison center in their community in the old Continental building at 5500 E. Biddle St.

And furthermore, the state supersedes the city. Baltimore City is just one of its subdivisions.

And if all the state senators and House delegates from Baltimore City vote against the new prison site, the other 23 sub divisions will most likely vote for the new prison site, in order that a prison center will not come into their territory.

—

But be assured the home work was completed in spite of the residents protest.

Your political representatives knew full well in advance that your communities had been betrayed long before the prison site had become publicly known.

Surely your political representatives from these areas had to know about the possibility of this site.

Yet, they did not report such findings to their constituency, but after word came out about the prison site to be located in their communities, some of your political leaders in the community began to speak out against it.

—

This prison site should have been nipped in the very early stages of negotiation but no, because the works and plans and studies were completed right under the noses of the citizens in these communities.

Without having any kind of community participation or with the residents in these areas to be affected.

The truth of the matter has never surfaced and publicly been known and exposed. I dare to say that any politician from the First and Second councilmanic districts and from the 43rd and 45th legislative districts would stand up to be identified about one's involvement and knowledge in concealing this very vital and important issue from their constituents.

So all the protestation and demonstrations, which are for a good cause, are going straight down the drain as the waste of time. The plans were approved more than two years ago.

It is like beating a dead horse to death in which the dead horse cannot die twice.

People are reading

From the Pratt library's Pennsylvania Avenue branch, 1531 W. North Ave., here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the Pratt staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

SINGING AND SWINGING, by Maya Angelou. Her continuing autobiography.

HURRY UP AMERICA AND SPIT, by Pearl Bailey. Another book of reminiscences and notes.

UP FROM NIGGER, by Dick Gregory. An update since Nigger.

THE CHILDREN OF HAM, by Claude Brown. An anthology of the Harlem gang called the Hamites.

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN? by Mary Higgins Clark. A woman running from her past is caught up in it and her children are kidnapped.

African diplomats enjoyed weekend Baltimore program

By Rep. Parren J. Mitchell

The Henry McNeil Turner Society of Bethel AME Church recently sponsored the Pan-African Liberation Weekend. More than a score of African officials attended.

During the time I have served in the Congress, I have had relatively frequent meetings with African leaders. These meetings were always productive and pleasant but almost each one ended with the question being raised, "Do black Americans really care about Africa?"

In each meeting, I attempted to persuade them that we really do care, but there was always some lingering skepticism.

The Pan-African Liberation Weekend did an enormous amount to confirm to our African brothers that we do indeed care.

—

Ambassador T. Jake Muwamba of the Malawi Embassy wrote me the following letter:

"Dear Congressman Mitchell:

"This is a belated thank you for inviting me on behalf of the Henry McNeil Turner Society (HMTS) of the Bethel AME Church in Baltimore, to the Pan-African Liberation Weekend, which was held from the 11th-13th instant in your constituency. I want you, officials of HMTS and all the people of Baltimore to know how privileged I felt about the exposure that I had over the past weekend.

"My visit to Baltimore was an experience which I will remember for a long time. It was an experience which gave me the first opportunity since my arrival in this country of Afro Americans commitment to the political struggle of Southern Africa. For the first time, I dare repeat, I discovered that our own people here could and must be relied upon in effectively educating the masses in this vast country on what the struggle in Southern Africa is all about.

"I thought the selection of speakers was second to none, and the organization of the function was itself an inspiration in its own right. It was a joy to witness the bubbling enthusiasm of your constituents. Therefore, you have every good reason to pride in their activities, just as they have every good reason to boast of your dedication to public service as well as the totality of your performance in public affairs.

"Therefore, you can well understand and appreciate why I easily became the victim of emotion. Your simplicity and honesty of purpose moved me tremendously. I salute you for your concern for the black people of Southern Africa. I was definitely enthused by your determination to fight for a positive change in that area aimed at the transfer of political power from the white minority to the black majority if the continent is to avoid a blood bath. I wish you every success in your noble task.

"Please convey, on my behalf, to the officials and members of the HMTS my very sincere thanks and indebtedness for an excellent job of work done, and for having me to share their hospitality and fellowship last weekend.

"With warm personal regards."

Ambassador Laurent Nzeyimana of the Republic of Burundi wrote:

"Dear Congressman Mitchell:

"I would like to tell you, very sincerely, how much the First Counselor of our Embassy Mr. Sambira and I have appreciated the welcome extended to us in Baltimore, on the Feb. 12, 1977 Pan-African Liberation Weekend. "In solidarity with every just struggle"

"We have been especially impressed by the interest, awareness and the determination of the people of Baltimore of the struggle for freedom that we must pursue, each one according to his means, at the side of our African brothers.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for having invited us to participate in this conference and to ask you to convey our congratulations and our participation to the sponsors and in particular to Dr. Andrew Billingsley and to all those who participated."

Other ambassadors have called me to express their appreciation for the weekend and many asked, "Why cannot we do this in Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities where our brothers are found in large numbers?"

Why not?

Bethel Church and the Henry McNeil Turner Society have rendered a great service. Officials of Africa met the unofficial black brothers and sisters, the grass roots people — and the bonds of brotherhood were strengthened.

Poet's corner

Being Black

Being black is me and you
Being black is what our ancestors
had to go through
Trying for freedom and then getting caught
And blood flowing freely for
something they sought
Picking cotton while working in the
fields
And saying in their minds,
"Man this can't be real"
Masters taking slaves up to their
quarters
Just to prepare them for the senseless, sexual slaughter
Slaves trying to teach their children
what's right
Only for them to lose their lives
later in the freedom fight
So being black is not only me and
you
Being black is really what our
ancestors had to go through.

CORNELL PARKER

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

DECEMBER 24, 1938

(From the Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

"I am a man of peace; God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."
Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

Sees writer in dark

Dear AFRO:

I am slightly confused towards Mrs. Bernice B. Lewis' letter to Dear AFRO in the Feb. 12, issue. I can imagine her inner sense of pride and individuality, yet when she stated her only concern was for the heritage she will project to future generations, I see lack of pride for whence she came.

Is it not true that if you honor your fathers and mothers, that your days will be long and fruitful upon the homeland (earth) that you live.

How can she say that she is a blessed black American? And to be black is to be dead, colorless, void, nothing. Check out Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

If she wants to be proud of what she proclaims, then proclaim true and divine birth rights: it's the only way to be recognized by the said government in which you live and the nations of the earth.

If she has a fortunate personality as she says, then her pride should go way beyond being black.

If there are any questions towards my authority, then write me at the above address.

I will be more than glad to bring her out of the darkness and into the marvelous light.

JOSEPH L. BARKSDALE-BEY

A call for help

Dear AFRO:

The situation here, at the Maryland Penitentiary has reached the point of no return. The guard force has been granted the power of life and death. The latest weapon which has been placed at their disposal is one where we have no defense, whatsoever.

Their latest and deadliest weapon is a gaseous compound which produces cancer. This fact was brutally made known to the inmates of this prison in a recent incident of guard brutality against defenseless prisoners.

Ronnie Adams and Ralph Harrison were attacked by a group of prison guards while being led, handcuffed, to the showers of the segregation unit. As a result of this attack, both Adams and Harrison suffered multiple stab wounds. Prior to being dragged to the prison's hospital, Adams was sprayed with vasts amounts of an experimental chemical agent (COII).

This gas was sprayed on him, despite the fact that he had open, bleeding wounds from the attack which had taken place moments before.

While treating Adams for facial and chest wounds, the doctor discovered something which caused him to order an immediate chest X-ray.

The results of the X-ray was that Adams had abnormal growths in the chest region, which are possibly cancerous.

The Maryland Penitentiary administration has seen fit to keep Adams confined to the segregation unit of the prison, with an occasional visit to the hospital, to keep check on this cancerous growth.

This is an outrage to the right to life. This is a criminal act, and somebody must be made to pay. The officials who gave their consent, and who continue to approve the use of these lethal gases are equally guilty of helping to murder this brother, Ronnie Adams.

At present, Ronnie Adams is dying in a stinking cell on the segregation unit with no hope of survival. To insure that he doesn't survive, the administration has seen fit to sentence him to total of 10 years on segregation.

We here in the penitentiary know that our lives are not worth very much to those who are charged with overseeing the men housed here. We know that this is not an isolated incident which will not happen again. The assaults are still going on, and these dangerous gases are still being used.

If we are to survive this prison experience, we need help. We need some concerned person, persons, organizations, anyone, to launch an investigation into the happenings behind these walls.

JACK JOHNSON 121-538
Maryland Penitentiary

Handgun bill timely

Dear AFRO:

Senate Bill No. 545 to outlaw the manufacture, sale and transportation of handguns in the State of Maryland has been introduced in the Maryland State Senate by Senator Robert Douglass of the 45th Legislative District.

It is most timely that this bill appears just at the time that a strict Handgun Bill passed by the City Council of the District of Columbia in 1976 has been upheld by a District of Columbia Superior Court judge in the face of a challenge from the National Rifle Association as to its constitutionality.

The ruling leaves standing an order issued by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals upholding the Gun Control Law passed by the D.C. City Council.

The time to outlaw the handgun is now while its death trial confronts us daily in crime and accident statistics.

JOHN L. BERRY

Stirred by free 'Selma'

Dear AFRO:

On Monday, Feb. 21, I leisurely observed George Washington's birthday, with a day off from my job as a special advisor to the Maryland Commission on Human Relations on Matters Relating to the Physically and Mentally Handicapped.

Late in the day as my children, a friend and I drove out Edmondson Avenue to a nearby shopping center, we were tuned in to WEBB Radio Station.

As we were driving along, I heard the announcement that Selma, the musical on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., would be open that night free of charge.

I just couldn't believe what I was hearing was true, so I pulled over to the nearest pay telephone and called WEBB Radio, spoke with James Sears, who confirmed that the announcement I had heard was true.

I immediately rescheduled my evening, and several of my friends rescheduled theirs too, and blessed we were that we saw Selma.

Although the Civic Center is not known for its adaptability as a theatre or concert hall, I somehow forgot all that was lacking in coziness and quality acoustics, when I was shrouded with the artistic genius of Tommy Butler, who wrote, produced and played the role of Dr. King.

Someone has written that he's a reincarnation of Dr. King and he gives another perspective to the non-violent movement.

With Denise Erwin, in the role of Coretta King, I could see clearly the universal qualities of love, strength and social awareness that I believe to be so important not just in black womanhood, but in all human kind.

And of course the grace, courage and beauty of Kim Weston, Rosa Parks, was most inspirational.

As for the music, well, its moving message is an unforgettable emotional, totally artistic as well as learning experience.

The message to me is in the life of Dr. King, as seen in the incidents surrounding the March from Selma, Keep on Moving.

If again in life you get the opportunity to see "Selma," please take advantage of it. And take your children, Julie and Phil loved it, so did Melvin.

(Mrs.) ERMA PERRY
Maryland Commission on Human Rights

Report Card Day

Dear AFRO:

We would like to express to you our sincere appreciation in helping Garrison Junior High School make its Report Card day a success.

Moreover, we were pleased to greet 1,000 parents because of your cooperation. We would never have had such an excellent response to this activity on Feb. 8.

Again, many thanks to you from the Garrison faculty and staff for the five contributions that you made.

GARRISON STAFF & FACULTY

Young beat — by larry young
That one-man filibuster show

Delegate Kenneth Webster, D-40th, takes his seat on the floor of the House of Delegates chamber and immediately turns and says, "Larry, Clarence (Mitchell III) is filibustering the death penalty bill."

A colleague heard Kenny and said to me, "It is not a filibuster, it's a show."

I snapped back to the other delegate and said, "A show hell! Garry Gilmore's episode was a show."

I left my seat and started to walk to the Senate chamber, to see my senator defend his point of view.

Sitting in the Senate chamber, I started to search my heart for how I would vote on this piece of legislation. I asked a student page, to get me a copy of Senate Bill 106.

My family and I have had tragedy to occur whereby my nephew Jason was murdered by a young thug. Jason was 17 years old.

To this dale the murderer has not been brought to justice and like any loss of a loved one, it hurts. Yet, the death penalty bill as written, will not effect Jason's murder; even if he were caught and convicted.

There's a great deal of misunderstanding as to what S.B. 106 means as far as coverage under the death penalty:

. . . . For the purpose of providing penalties for first degree murder; providing certain factors to be considered for the imposition of the penalties; requiring that the sentencing court provide specific written finding of fact; providing for direct appeal to the Court of Appeals; changing the form of an indictment for first degree murder; eliminating review of death penalty cases by a panel of trial judges; and generally relating to first degree murder and the death penalty in Maryland . . . .

. . . . The victim was a law-enforcement officer as defined in Article 27, Section 727, an officer serving in a probationary status, a parole and probation officer, or a law-enforcement officer of a jurisdiction outside of Maryland, who was murdered during the performance of his duty; or the defendant committed the murder in furtherance of an attempt to escape from or evade the lawful custody, arrest or detention of or by a correctional officer or guard;

. . . . The victim was a hostage taken or attempted to be taken in the course of a kidnaping or an attempt to kidnap;

. . . The victim was a child abducted in violation of Section 2 of this article;

. . . The defendant committed the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration or employed another to commit the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration;

—

The next day, I read a copy of a letter from the president of an Inmate Council (401 E. Eager St.). He had written a letter to the chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. The letter reads:

"As one representative to another, when a show of unity is necessary — despite our individual differences — we must remain unified.

"We must endeavor to retain our power through sheer numbers if nothing else, demonstrating to the opposition that we are above individual pettiness and can stick together.

"I would like to discuss with you and members of the caucus a piece of legislation that is pending in the Senate (SB-106). This bill, as you know, is the re-enactment of the Death Penalty.

"You also probably are aware of the fact that this legislation will affect more than 80 per cent of all the populations in penal institutions across the state; a population comprised mainly of black men and women.

"At least 80 per cent of the incarcerated are young black males who fall victims to an unjust system because of joblessness, lack of educational attainments, lack of financial resources, etc.

"Whatever the reason for incarceration, one must recognize that black people on the whole must deal with an inequitable judicial system.

—

"I am urging each individual to write similar letters to you and members of the Caucus requesting that the Black Caucus reconsider its previous position on the Death Penalty and unite in an effort to kill this piece of legislation.

"If we cannot put our faith in our so-called representatives on such an important and personal issue, we, the black community of the state of Maryland, are in a shameful, disgraceful situation.

"We consider then your actions as indicative of members of Black Genocide perpetrators.

"Can we as relatives, husbands, friends and fathers of your constituents — expect this disunity and selfishness on every piece of legislation pertinent to our lives when it comes to the Black Caucus voting? We demand an explanation of your collective dissension."

—

The Caucus voted last week to oppose the Death Penalty Bill.

However, if a bill that said a person who is convicted of murder is to get a sentence of natural life in prison with no parole, well, I would have to think long and hard to not support that bill.

What do you think?

Muslims offer history calendar dates

By Michael A. Rashid, Imam

As a concerned citizen and also as the Maryland representative of Islam in the West, I would like to express my great disappointment over your serious omission of certain dates and events which are extremely meaningful to a large segment of our community in your recent Black History Calendar (January-March).

These dates include:

Feb. 25, 1975 — The death of Honorable Elijah Muhammad, for 42 years the leader and spiritual head of Lost-Found Nation of Islam in the West, known as World Community of Islam in the West.

3. Feb. 26, 1975 — The election of the Honorable W. D. Muhammad as chief minister of the World-Community of Islam in the West, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of Muslims around the world as the "second resurrection."

4. March 2 — Mawlid an-Nabi — the birthday of Prophet Muhammad Ibn Abdullah (Peace Be Upon Him), the leader of thousands of black American Muslims and millions of black African Muslims (If Jesus' birthday is commemorated, why not Muhammad?).

5. Aug. 16, 1977 — The beginning of Ramadan, the traditional month of fasting for Muslims.

6. Sept. 11, 1977 — Lailatul-Qadr (The night of Power) — The night on which the Holy Quran, the religious Book of millions and millions of blacks around the world who are Muslims was revealed.

7. Sept. 15, 1977 —Shawwal I (Idul-Fitr) one of the two main holidays in the Islamic year, the day of feasting marking the end of the day of fasting.

8. Oct. 7, 1897 — The birthday of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

9. Oct. 30, 1933 — Birthday of the Honorable W. D. Muhammad Chief Imam of World Community of Islam in the West.

10. Nov. 27th Idul-Adha — Second of two major Islamic holidays, feast of sacrifice.

These dates are recorded on the Lunar Calendar, standard calendar of Islamic World and as such they rotate from year to year when transferred to the Solar Calendar.

We respectfully submit to you that if your calendar is to relate to the experiences of all black people, that it cannot in good faith omit the significant portion of our population that is Muslim or influenced by the Muslim way of life.

Salute of the week

(AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations to be used in this column. Write Salute of the Week, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203)

The Iota Chapter, Lambda Kappa Mu Society has unanimously recommended Soror Margaret Yates for the Distinguished Service Key.

"Margaret Yates is living personification of all the noble ideals of Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority. She has not only given selflessly of herself to the work of the sorority, but she has worked relentlessly in her church and community in an effort to improve the quality of life for all mankind.

"As a professional educator, thousands of boys and girls have been the beneficiaries of her creative instruction and wise counsel. The fact that she was named to a principalship in Baltimore County is profound testimony to the personal excellence she exhibits and seeks to nurture in others.

"But more than her involvements external to our sorority, Margaret Yates has been a model soror. Since her initiation into Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority almost 15 years ago, Soror Yates has been an active and contributing member.

"She has gone well beyond the proverbial second mile in serving her sorority through an enlightened service on numerous committees and the holder of various chapter and national posts."

MRS. MARGARET YATES

—

Mrs. Yates' husband, Ulysses is a steel worker. They attend the Pleasant Hope Baptist Church where the Rev. Howard Queen is minister.

A Baltimorean, she is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brandon.

Smile

Father — "Don't let me hear any bad reports from school about you.

Son — "I'll try very hard, but you know how those things do leak out.

AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems. You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections and complain and inquire about AFRO news stories and policies.

You need only to write a postcard to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address, and telephone number.

QUESTION: — There has been an abandoned green station wagon in the 1500 block of Cary Street for quite a while now. The children play in it and now drunks are using it as a place to sleep. We have made several calls but to no avail. G.H.

ANSWER: A spokesman from the Abandoned Vehicles Department (396-8175) claims he has no record of previous calls. He has promised, however, to notify the police department immediately.

QUESTION: When washing or wiping the phone, how can I avoid disturbing the operator. M.D.

ANSWER: A C. and P. spokesman says, "While you are cleaning under the wheel, you simply hold the plunger down.

—

QUESTION: Last Tuesday I was watching "Good Morning America." When the former minister of the church in Plains, Ga., was scheduled to speak, we began experiencing technical difficulties.

Because I was aware of the fact that the show originated in New York, I immediately switched to Channel 7 and was able to view it clearly. During the course of the interview I kept switching back to Channel 13, only to find it still blacked out. At the completion of the interview, I returned to Challen 13. All was clear. Can you explain what happened and why. Was it intentionally blacked out?—A.S.

ANSWER: AFRO Line called WJZ-TV Programming Department and was told, "We had a power failure which lasted from 7:47 a.m. to 7:51 a.m.

"It was coincidental that the failure occurred at the precise time, the minister was speaking."

Where to call

*** COMPLAINTS**

Of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability or tension in your community, call COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION — 396-3141 or 396-3150

—of questionable business practices, CONSUMER PROTECTION, 383-3656

—on food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, radiological products, call FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION — 462-4490.

—Discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodation, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION — 383-3680

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188

SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-0232

TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-3049

VACANT HOUSE — 396-4126

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4791

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE — 396-1111.

FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-1313

POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333

HOUSING, HEATING, LIGHT — 234-2172 or 234-2412

NOWADAYS

'S AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20)—Romance is in the air but it is best you leave it there. This is no time to upset the applecart at home.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — You have a wonderful personality. Yet, you should not depend on it to establish a relationship with most people. Diplomacy is the thing.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Be careful not to display your major weaknesses. Someone is waiting in the wings to take advantage of you.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Your interest in another's problems can place you in a very uncomfortable position. Be a good sounding board only.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24- Aug. 23) — Do not encourage another's gossip. You may end up the subject of an embarrassing tale.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — If you can find nothing good to say about an associate, it is best to keep quiet. Tact sugar coats the truth.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — You are extremely ambitious and are not satisfied with mediocre success. Because of this, considerable triumph is soon to come.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Someone is attempting to spoil your plans. Take effective action now before they become successful.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)—The situation on your job may not look encouraging now — however you are in store for a pleasant surprise.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)—An outright payment to another will not work. If you want to make an impression you must be a little more discreet.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — You bluffed your way into this difficult situation. It is up to you to bluff your way out.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — You are not above failure. If you want to win friends and influence people, avoid blaming others for your mishaps.