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. 13, 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)

Murder on TV

The scene: a busy city street. Time: evening. People are out. It is hot.

A teen-ager is walking alone.

Another person is coming his way. A strange apparition. Someone with a green plastic trash bag over his upper body. This masked man or woman suddenly opens fire on the approaching teen.

The boy drops to the pavement, dead. The assassin escapes into the night shadows.

You would think, at this moment, the background music would increase in volume and the title "Kojak" or "Streets of San Francisco" would pop up on the TV tube and another crime adventure would unravel before your eyes.

But this is not television make-believe. This is the real thing. Not "Kojak" but Baltimore. Not Frisco "Streets" but Liberty Heights and Garrison Blvd. right here at home.

Anthony Lewis, 17, the dead youth, was real. His killer is real.

Baltimore is a particularly violent city. Whatever the causes there is no getting away from the fact that as of April, 1977 some 19 Baltimoreans have been murdered. In 1976 homicides totaled 200. In 90 per cent of last year's slayings, the murderers were apprehended, some 187 of them.

But what is so alarming about the Anthony Lewis case, in addition to the utter audacity and cold-bloodedness of his murder, is the fact that young Lewis was to have appeared in court a few days later as a witness in a robbery trial.

His death, of course, silenced him forever.

Young Anthony was not appearing as a "snitch" but as a victim of the robbery. Another youth, 21, has been detained, charged with taking Lewis' topcoat.

When we add to this set of circumstances the fact that Lewis was a good citizen, active in community police volunteer activity, we feel the police department has a special motivation to track down this boy's killer.

We will not say this is a case where the police should be looking after their own (Lewis) but unless an early arrest is made local law enfotcement attempts to involve young people in constructive community programs will suffer.

Who wants to be a part of something that could get you killed?

Our own information is that children in Anthony's neighborhood have a sense of what went down and who was wearing that green trash bag mask and why the murder was done.

They understandably are frightened. They know what happened to Tony Lewis.

The idea of murder is repugnant on its face. The reality that there are young people in the Liberty Heights area, or any neighborhood for that matter, who are not yet hardened criminals but are already so warped they are going around imitating Mafia hit men, as in the movies, is even more repugnant.

If you begin to look closely at the Green Bag murder as it is being called you begin to see all manner of horrors.

This is no ordinary in-the-heat-of-passion slaying.

This was an execution. We sense no one involved is a grown-up as adulthood is usually defined.

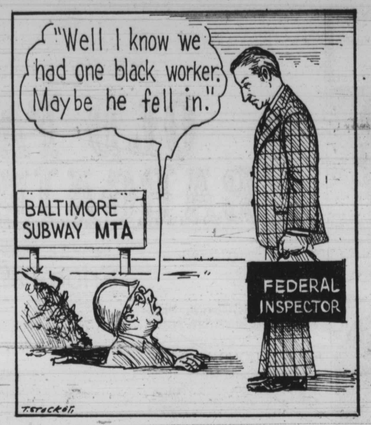
These are kids killing kids so far as it can be ascertained.

A carefully planned murder just like on TV and if that doesn't scare the hell out of you, you are devoid of feeling.

Our homicide division last year had a 90 per cent solution record which is very good if there is anything good about murder.

This surely is a case deserving of their highest priority and total skills.

We will expect an arrest quite soon.



Our readers say. . .

Overturn welfare veto!

Dear AFRO:

The recent gubernational veto of SB 715 which would phase-in welfare benefits to the state defined standard of need, is appalling on several counts.

In his veto message the Governor made three points:

1) the bill was formula spending which committed the state to ever increasing expenditures.

2) the Carter Administration will solve welfare problems and thus make the legislation moot.

3) recipients receive enough benefits because of all the various social welfare programs.

The Maryland Conference of Social Concern, a statewide citizens advocacy organization takes strong issue with each of these points.

1) The General Assembly recognized that this bill phased in, over a four year period, increased funds. The bill was never ever open-ended.

2) It is cruel and unfair to penalize and jeopardize the lives of mothers and children for an indefinite period of time to see what the federal government may or may not do regarding welfare reform.

3) It is patently false to assume mothers and children receive great sums of money from various programs at the same time. Eligibility for programs vary with each program. Recipient participation in various programs fluctuates from time to time.

The Mandel Administration's rationale for the veto just does not hold water. It is just another example of the callous and unjust treatment of people who have the least.

The Maryland Conference vehemently protests this action and strongly urges the General Assembly to override the veto when it reconvenes next January.

LAWRENCE A. LAMOTTE
Executive Director

Can America be honest

Dear AFRO:

I would like to raise a question which I have never really heard asked—neither in school, nor in everyday life.

The question is: "Was the taking of America from the Indians a just act, or an unjust act?" If it was a just act, then do other cultures, including the Indians, have an equal right to take the country? If they don't, then why don't they, if it was right for America to do so?

On the other hand, if it was not a just act, then why isn't this fact admitted openly along with those statements proclaiming American justice and fair play? Also, if it was an unjust act, doesn't this give other cultures, including the Indians, an even greater right to the land?

She cannot be serious when she singles out a black Idi Amin as a savage for his alleged atrocities, as if he was the only atrocious person, while failing to call white South Africans or white Rhodesians savage who are brutally murdering black Africans in their own land, and while failing to call white Americans savage whose murders of black Americans still dot the country.

How, then, can America condemn Adolf Hitler for his white supremacy, when most white Americans—either loudly or quietly—feel, as did he, that theirs is a superior race?

FRANK G. NEWTON

Pro-Electoral College

Dear AFRO:

Some distinguished Americans including Senator Birch Bayh, chairman of the Sub-Committee on Constitutional Amendments, are recommending the abolition of the Electoral College and its replacement by direct election by the voters, of the President of the United States.

I am inclined to believe that the Electoral College has stood the test of time. For the most part the men chosen President by this method have been chosen wisely in accordance with the will of the majority of the people.

The Electoral College has fostered the two party system, thereby promoting healthy political competition. It has met the challenge in 1948 of Senator Strom Thurmond and his Dixiecrats and of Governor Wallace in 1968 in their attempts to throw the elections into the House of Representatives and force their segregation policies on the presidential nominee.

Besides, the Electoral College, because of the weight given by it to the larger states with their large racial minorities, has tended especially in the last 50 years to make the President chosen more sensitive to the needs of minorities.

JOHN L. BERRY

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Talking up for the NAACP

"Has the NAACP Sold Out?"... That is the question asked in an extra-bold, 5-column, front-page headline recently in one of the nation's leading black newspapers — a question that was really an attack on the new leadership that has been voted into office by the nation's most impactful civil rights organization.

The attached story was subtitled an "analysis" but, in 30 paragraphs, it was more inclined to taking sides than to analyzing. It had the tones of an editorial but was not on the editorial page. At least, it should have been signed, so that readers might measure its contentions against the reputation of the writer, but it was unsigned.

On the positive side, the article seems to be intended as an encomium to the retiring executive director, Roy Wilkins, now 75 — a veteran NAACP staff member, a "Freedom Fighter" long before that term became popular, and one deserving of endless praise for his contributions to racial advancement.

This writer has been a friend and admirer of Wilkins since our college days. But, respect and adoration for him does not, and should not, mean down grading, low-rating and attacking those who follow him; in this instance Margaret Bush Wilson, first woman chairman of the NAACP board, and Benjamin C. Hooks, a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, a minister and businessman.

Attorney Wilson and Mr. Hooks (both are also entitled to the title of "Doctor"), have also been "Freedon Fighters" down the years, both are dedicated to the principles and programs of the NAACP and both were duly and legally chosen for their offices.

Their selection, certainly, is no "selling out" of the historic NAACP.

—

The more serious blow-below-the-belt in the unsigned "analysis" is the assertion that the new officers will sell out the NAACP because, allegedly, they (1) plan to raise some NAACP funds from whites and (2) because they have both accepted, or are willing to accept, membership on the boards of directors of major corporations.

This is the charge that may frighten black members of the NAACP and cause them to lose confidence in the oldest and most trusted of black organizations.

The truth is, however, that the NAACP, from its birth, has always had the support of concerned people of every race, religion, color and economic station. Whites were among its major founders and, as this column has said at other times, in the earliest civil rights and anti-jimcrow suits brought by the NAACP, its lawyers were white, often eminent lawyers, often volunteering their time and talents.

As recently as the Mississippi Fund Drive, substantial money contributions were made by white individuals and predominantly white organizations. Significant, however, is the fact that the NAACP has always raised more money from blacks, themselves, than the other leading black organizations. Since World War II, certainly since Little Rock, most of its money has, year after year, come from blacks.

It is twisting the truth to make it appear that the new leadership is on the way to commit treason by seeking a larger proportion of support from the larger corporations—corporations which, incidentally, sell to blacks both in the U.S.A. and abroad. It would be similarly twisting the truth to say that black newspapers serve their black constituencies less since they have been carrying the fat display advertising from downtown department stores and supermarkets!

—

What corporation boards any black leader — or any black person — joins must always be a matter of judgment, based on personal integrity and interests and institutional guidelines. No one should want to "sell" his race down the river through board memberships—a recognition that blacks have long demanded.

Those blacks who now serve on important corporate boards, and are known to this writer, have wrought well in opening doors and in enlightening across racial lines.

Nothing written here is intended as carrying the torch for Drs. Wilson and Hooks. They must be judged on their performances down the months and years as the top officers of the national NAACP. Neither are we so naive as to think that major change in top leadership can be achieved without some tension. For instance, there were pro-Wilkins and anti-Wilkins camps when Roy Wilkins was first proposed to succeed the celebrated Walter White as executive director of the NAACP, and there have been "Young Turks," raady to throw the Old Guard out, at nearly every convention.

All of this is as normal in organizational politics as bacon and eggs for breakfast.

There is nothing in the present changes in the NAACP officers, however, which should frighten black America. Rather change and movement call for those who believe in the NAACP to support it more than ever, to give the new officers a resounding vote of confidence and to "close ranks" for "unity."

..EDITOR'S NOTE: The "nation's leading" black newspaper Dr. Fleming refers to in this column above is of course The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

..The story was indicated as an "analysis" so as to leave no doubt that it was an analysis rather than a routine "objective" news story.

..We agree that all materials within our pages which include opinion of any sort should bear the name of its writer. Since we see part of our mission as being an alternative news journal we like to credit our writers who must so often deal with alternatives to the mass media's view of things.

..We also like to give the writer's name usually on other than routine news treatments so that the reading public knows exactly who it is that is saying what.

..Dr. Fleming is correct to insist on this truth in labeling. We will be scrupulous in that regard.

..However we part company with our columnist when said article is in his view an "attack" on the new NAACP leadership.

..A questioning, yes, an attack not quite so though Dr. Hooks' corporate strategy gives us serious pause.

..In any event the story provokes thoughtful discussion as Dr. Fleming's column so strongly demonstrates. Which brings us to another part of our accelerating mission, the idea of this newspaper being the appropriate forum where such differences and harmonies in black thought are to be expressed.

The subway: Shape up or close down

Last week we questioned the very idea of a subway system for Baltimore, pointing out that among other things, there was scant benefit involved in its construction for either minority workers or contractors.

Our observation is borne out this week with the news that lawyers for the Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA) plan to sue the Maryland Transit Authority for its failure to ensure that bonafide minority contractors, in the state, the majority of them black, receive 10 per cent of the contracts.

The suit will be delayed a week while MMCA counsel meets with the United States Transit Administration's (UMTA) regional civil rights office.

UMTA is the Federal Agency which dispenses up to 90 per cent of the money going into the Baltimore subway project. Its guidelines specify that fund recipients adhere to affirmative action programs.

On the face MTA has not followed the federal guidelines regarding equity for minority contractors or has been so slip-shod in its monitoring of this equity provision that thus far four so-called "minority" contractors have had to be disqualified from subway construction contracts.

Maryland, which has given us Spiro Agnew and a governor currently on trial, is notoriously lax about its use of taxpayers' dollars and in such a climate, the rip-off or attempted rip-off of legitimate minority contractors was a foregone conclusion.

This newspaper sounded the alert early on a watch-dogging later picked up and pursued by the daily media.

We were correct. The evidence bore out our contention that white businessmen, everlastingly greedy, were not content to scoop up 90 per cent of the subway construction money but wanted the whole pie.

Which meant they set up some willing and docile black people in business as minority contractors so that the equity money rightfully due deserving black contractors went into white behind-the-scenes hands.

This scheme was attempted during construction of the Washington, D.C. subway so our state officials should have been prepared for such eventualities as a matter of course.

But Maryland speculators figure they can keep on fooling the citizenry forever so right away at least four "minority" contractors were out of the starting gates.

Only the vigilance of the press, MCCA and later on Cong. Mitchell has prevented a duplication of the attempted D.C. rip-off.

We are further convinced since hearing MCCA's charges, that the subway is maybe a lousy idea all the way around.

For now, if minority contractors in our state do not get their fair share, and if minority workmen are not hired in far greater numbers than is presently the case, our position is that the subway project can close down.

We would rather see an unfinished hole in the ground than another demonstration of this state's historic contempt for its black populace.

Pay up or close down.

That media meet

We said when we figured out what our role would be in the upcoming meeting here of black newspersons who work for white media we would tell you.

Well, seeing as how everything our brothers and sisters do, even toil for the news-masters, is within our special field of vision, we have decided to treat the event as a news occurrence.

Which means, of course, that anything in our judgment, emerging from this conference that is newsworthy will be duly reported.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

'I don't carry a purse at night

How often have we heard our friends say this as a reaction to real and imagined dangers of being mugged.

However, it becomes more and more a fact of life that newspapers, TV news and radio drone a daily litany of crime that has made cowards of us and at the same time heightened our hysteria out of all reason.

This also infects judges and juries who give stiffer sentences believing that warehousing young men (mostly black) will miraculously solve the problem.

Nevertheless the elderly have become involuntary shut-ins and couples have made TV their total amusement fare, because we honestly believe that we better leave the streets to a faceless criminal mass.

But to merely react in this negative fashion, to ignore the problem, will not make crime in the streets vanish.

A case in point of someone who is doing something about it is a white, middle-class woman, long a civil rights activist and CORE member named Barbara Mills. She, as a librarian at Joseph Briscoe (451) School became involved with a family, tutoring on her own one of the boys, Victor, to achieve grade level in reading.

But as fate would have it both Victor and his older brother Lee, in May, were accused of assaulting and attacking a man. Despite Ms. Mills' efforts to get probation or compulsory attendance at the Violence Clinic, they were subsequently tried and convicted, Victor received six years and Lee, eight. With her financial and moral support, Victor is out on bail and working pending an appeal.

They both claim innocence, that they were victims of the racist dragnet philosophy entertained by police and citizens alike.

But whether they are guilty or innocent, the real problem about conviction and imprisonment is that it is a road that has no turning. Once locked into the penal system, young men like Victor and Lee become frustrated, then rebellious and finally defeated. At the same time they become perfect students of the resultant vengefulness that makes a majority of the prisoners, repeaters.

To take this inhumane prison treatment a bit farther, I received a call from a prisoner at the Central Laundry at Sykesville, complaining that they either ate chili and rice, or hot dogs, beans and french fries, day after day. He added, "I knew you could stretch oatmeal and cream of wheat, but never for days and days like they do here."

When the prisoners refuse to eat this monotonous fare, they are merely served it again and again until it is gone. Either someone is making a little graft in food purchasing or else, cruel and inhuman treatment like this is standard operating procedure. Moreover, the innocuous (to us) monotony of food foments revolt ending in fire, death and more of the same cruel treatment.

But back to Barbara. She wants to help Victor, but there are countless other Victors who are the faceless youth in our communities who have been stunted intellectually, by a combination of forces that impact upon the ghetto. And the home, school and church seem unable to cope with them.

The city and state government, the business community all discriminate to the extent that we have 30 to 40 per cent unemployed in the inner city and when hired, we become the first fired. Meanwhile the youth feel useless, unloved and unwanted and become willing participants in dealing in dope, alcohol, robbery, assault and murder.

Barbara says, "The main message I want to voice to white middle-class America is to get out of the institutional thought process which definitely hasn't worked, and re-humanize the problem. Develop a one-to-one relationship with someone in trouble (such as the one I had developed through the Offendess Aid and Restoration organization which is designed specifically to facilitate this) so as better to see that we are talking about people, not statistics, so as to better understand exactly what the problem is, so we can at least begin to deal with real solutions instead of 'stonewalling.'"

If we take the problem of crime from the passive reaction to the active involvement in its solution, we have our jobs cut out for us.

Each time we rest our hand on the door knob hesitating whether to go out without our purses or even whether to go out at all, perhaps that should be the signal to question whether defensiveness and reaction to the problem is enough.

If each of us does something by joining the Offenders Aid, or by monitoring the courts to see first hand the "justice" doled out by harsh sentences; or by encouraging halfway houses in communities, or other alternatives to prison; if we save just one, to keep him from repeating his warehousing, maybe one day deciding whether to go out without a purse at night will be the most trivial decision we shall have to make.

Pointers to prevent food poisoning

Do not thaw foods at room temperature. Thaw in the refrigerator. For faster thawing, place food in a plastic bag and set in cold water. Cook promptly or refrigerate after thawing. Food may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals.

"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

Welfare system critic

Dear AFRO:

This letter is in criticism of the welfare system in Maryland and written for all those who suffer under it in quiet desperation.

Because of its current policies and practices, The Department of Social Services does nothing to alleviate poverty, but instead to enhance and perpetuate the problems it is designed to destroy.

The name Department for the Dispensing of Sub-Poverty Level Income would be a more accurate title for this bureaucracy since it is neither social, (dealing with the relationship of the recipient to society), or a service, (dealing with financial, psychological, and-or educational help for its recipients).

The Department of Social Services does nothing in the area of self-help for the improvement of its recipients. Instead of offering and-or encouraging training or further education to alleviate the welfare poverty syndrome, The Department of Social Services deals in approving, disapproving, categorizing and filing away the lives of people who are sometimes powerless to help themselves or change their situation.

So, with these policies and practices taken into consideration, unless the recipients of this "service" find a means by and within themselves for economic and social betterment, their chance for change are next to none.

This is the true sorrow since the poor and disadvantaged are usually the last to know the particulars needed in securing educational and financial chances or opportunities.

Someone once brought this issue that I am trying to expound to light:

"Merely responding with a "relief check" to complicated social or personal problems — such as ill-health, faulty education, domestic discord, racial discrimination, or inadequate skills — is not likely to provide a lasting solution. Such a check must be supplemented, or in some cases made unnecessary by positive services and solutions, offering the total resources of the community to meet the total needs of the family to help our less fortunate citizens help themselves."

John F. Kennedy
Special Message to Congress, 1962

Was this message so long ago, is it so out of time, that not only the writer and the words were forgotten but so were we?

BONITA C. WILLIAMS

The improving AFRO

Dear AFRO:

Several weeks ago the Baltimore AFRO ran an editorial "Weaver's Corner," that was one of the finest examples of sensitive, intelligent and honest writing that I have seen in quite some time.

It was not only that the editorial has a personal impact on me, since I grew up on that particular corner, but it was also the manner in which you recaptured the feeling of that specific era, making it live again in the minds of those who came from that time, and creating afresh for those who never experienced the period.

I've always believed that such illuminations of the past are important to black people to make them constantly aware of the richness of their heritage, their links to the past. This knowledge identifies and interprets the black experience in this often hostile land just as it underscores the strength of our instinct for survival.

I am not suggesting that the AFRO suddenly take a deep and total plunge into the past, but it seems to me that the newspaper is in a position to do something else that no one else can do. And that something is to take, from time to time, some light on those events that have helped shape black Baltimore.

There are always lessons to be learned from history, and unless the AFRO writes the stories, no one else in that city will do the job with the sensitivity and feeling it demands.

Again let me congratulate you for the excellent and moving editorial, "Weaver's Corner," and also note that the AFRO, during the past several weeks, has been a markedly improved paper.

JAMES D. WILLIAMS,
Director, Communications Department
National Urban League, Inc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In his distinguished career as writer, editor and administrator Mr. Williams at one time served with distinction as editor of the Baltimore AFRO.

In praise of Madeline

Dear AFRO:

Mrs. Madeline W. Murphy is a lady of high standards and impeccable integrity. As a journalist she has consistently kept the faith of the calling and dared to question answers which less demanding persons find acceptable. Her columns relating to Dr. Homer Favor and Morgan University's Institute of Urban Affairs are a case in point.

However, it is not her willingness to fight the good fight that concerns this writer but rather the poetry of her life with her father which she shared with us in her column "Parenting Becomes Special Friendship," published in the June 18 edition of the AFRO.

Mrs. Murphy let us peep at a man whose heart was as big as all New England and she sprinkled clues which give insight into how the special fabric of her character was woven.

She has touched the black life style of this city with the strength of Pop's friendship and because her sons Art and Billy Murphy still carry the banner of that friendship and with it do battle (Art for the handicapped and Billy for those accused before the Bar). I thank you, Madeline W. Murphy.

AL RUTLEDGE

Safety tips for motorcycling

The motorcycle has become extremely popular both in the areas of recreation and transportation.

Motorcycling is a big sport here in the U.S. and every weekend there are road races, hill climbs and endurance tests.

It is the general feeling that motorcycles are unsafe and the drivers are foolish.

Statistics have proven that riding a motorcycle can be safe.

A driver should know his machine; obey traffic laws; drive defensively (use good sense); be courteous and keep in mind that the average automobile driver may not be on the lookout for a motorcycle.

Before getting on a motorcycle, one should dress properly for safety, comfort and protection.

In the state of Maryland it is illegal to ride without a helmet that has met the standards set by the commissioner.

All operators of motorcycles must wear an appropriate eye-protection device unless the motorcycle is equipped with a windshield. Riding without eye protection is like riding with the eyes closed.

Neither tennis shoes nor sandals should be worn. Shoes and boots should cover the ankles.

As an added safety factor, gloves and durable clothing should be worn.

It is important that a motorcyclist be seen. Therefore bright colored clothing should be worn.

A second person should not ride on a motorcycle unless such a motorcycle is designed to carry more than one person.

Packages or bundles which prevent the operator from keeping both hands on the handlebars should not be carried.

Smile

When you start wondering how long your car will last instead of how fast it will run, you know you are getting old.

—

The young bride asked her husband, "What will I get if I cook a dinner like this for you every day?"

The hubby replied, "My life insurance."

Young beat — by larry young

Second altar call

(Mr. Young is a member of the House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore City's 38th District).

This writer recently was invited to join many of God's finest people in supporting Mary Antoinette Phillips, founder of We Need Prayer headquarters, sponsorship of a Second Altar Call on Saturday, July 30, at Swann Dr. off McCulloh St. in Druid Hill Park from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Last year I joined the over 3,500-plus Christian folk who attended the first Bi-Centennial Altar Call.

The Altar Call was a follow-up to a vision that Sister Phillips had during a recuperation from a serious illness. This wonderful and spiritual lady got out of her bed and hosted thousands of folk who said by their presence: "We need prayer."

Just about everywhere you go, people are talking about the Altar Call. Over 25,000 flyers have been distributed. People from all walks of life will join hands in this citywide, interdenominational We Need Prayer — Second Altar Call.

The program is already printed, and what an exciting list of some of Baltimore's finest preachers, gospel choirs, groups and renowned gospel MC's:

9 a.m. — The Rev. Laura E. Stevenson, Opening, Bible instructor, We Need Prayer Headquarters;

10 a.m. — The Rev. Agnes Alston, associate minister, Gillis Memorial CC Church;

11 a.m. — The Rev. Clifford Johnson, pastor, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church;

11:30 a.m. — Father Maurice Blackwell, St. Bernadine, St. Bernadine Choir.

Noon — The Rev. John R. Bryant, pastor, Bethel AME Church, Delivering Message, His Choir Assisting;

1 p.m. — Father Henry Offer, St. Francis Xavier and

2 p.m. — Dr. Theodore C. Jackson, pastor, Gillis Memorial, Choirs.

Also will be featured Professor Charles Taylor and the Charles Taylor Singers, formerly of New York City; The Voices of Christ of Highway Church of God in Christ, Vanessa Taylor, The James Peterson Singers, Deacon Tommie Roberts, Mrs. Katie Jackson, The Thorne Trio, the Rev. Jimmy Smith, The Exeteries, The Honorable Parren J. Mitchell, Dr. Elijah Saunders, Del. Kenneth Webster and Del. Lloyal Randolph.

This gifted woman, Ms. Phillips, who probably will never regain perfect health and will need the support of a walker to get about for some time to come, is most unusual. Make note she is planning this big day from her sickbed, and yet we have folk who don't even believe in a God and that "Prayer changes things."

On Monday, June 27, the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity hosted their fifth Testimonial Banquet to honor their yearly accomplishments and outstanding citizens for excellence in special fields and for outstanding contribution to the church. This year yours truly received one of seven prestigious awards given out. Who called to offer congratulatory words and prayer? Sister Phillips.

Admittedly, the Altar Call belongs no longer to Sister Phillips but to all of us who are not afraid to confess in public before thousands that Christ is Alive! Find him and you will have the greatest experience of your life!

Just a word to the non-believers. The Devil is still all about us. One of this nation's true consciences, Parren J. Mitchell, member of Congress, has given the warning, "the U.S. House of Representatives engaged in systemic racism" and said his colleagues had gone berserk during the last thirty days. The legislators' actions, he said, were symptomatic of "systemic racism . . . a comprehensive plan to stop the further advances of the poor, the black and other minorities." Is not the problem closer to us than just Washington, D.C.?

Times like these should have us seeking the strength to Keep on, Keeping on — in short, that in addition to all other strategy, let's not forget — WE NEED PRAYER.

So, you join us at Swann Dr. off McCulloh St., on Saturday, July 30, at 9 a.m. Bring your own porch chairs and blankets and your thermos of ice tea or lemonade to keep you cool and quench your thirst. If you have a minibus or a car, please bring others with you.

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.)

"When I was a student at Coppin, I came to Baltimore Goodwill Industries on a tour and was so impressed, I returned and applied for a job."

These are the words of Miss Sharon Johnson who recently joined the staff of Baltimore Goodwill Industries as job readiness counselor. Her responsibilities are to help clients develop job seeking skills.

Miss Johnson continued, "My aspirations are to help as many people as possible to learn how to conduct themselves on interviews and how to fill out applications."

SHARON JOHNSON

She feels that many persons have quite a different concept of the Goodwill Industries.

"They feel that its function is merely to buy and sell used items," she explained, "but Goodwill Industries is a certified rehabilitation center.

"Clients come here for evaluation and-or training. We offer training in the custodial field, food services, upholstery and we're enacting a clerical program. The ultimate goal of Goodwill Industries is getting clients placed on jobs."

Miss Johnson, a resident of northwest Baltimore, is the only child of Clifton and Lucille Stubbs Johnson.

She is a graduate of Eastern High School, Class of '72, holds a B.A. degree in Sociology from Morgan State University and a Master's degree in Education from Coppin State College.

Miss Johnson is an active member of the Grace Presbyterian Church.

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Central Library, 400 Cathedral St., here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the library staff. Titles are available through all Pratt agencies.

FAITH AND THE GOOD THING, by Charles Johnson. The story of Faith Cross and her search for a good thing.

IN A BLUEBIRD'S EYE, by Anita Clay Kornfeld. Growing up white in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee.

SLAMMER, by Ben Greer. A novel of prison life written by a former prison guard.

EXIT 36, by Robert F. Capon. A clergyman's suicide justifies inquiries on life and Christian theology.

THE BOX MAN, by Kobo Abe. The life of a man who gave us all social identity to live in a box.

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 — 462-4499

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

— about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — 383-2374

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE — 396-1111

FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-1313

POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333.

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

SERVICE

ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-0218

CRIMINAL INJURIES resulting from robberies or assaults — 523-5000

DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS — 396-3168

DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL — 383-2720

FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2763

LEGAL AID — 539-5340

PENSION REFORM — 962-3914

NOWADAYS

AFRO-Line

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: My daughter is on Social Services and has been trying to get an apartment since August, 1976. She has a two-year old son and they have been living with different relatives who are already overcrowded with their own children. Is there anything the AFRO can do to help my child find someplace of her own to live? — C. B.

ANSWER: AFRO-Line made two calls to the Social Services office in your area and was promised that you would be referred to a service worker who would set up an appointment for you. A third call revealed that the service worker had given you a list of homes from which you were to investigate and make a selection.

QUESTION: I am 15 years old and have two brothers, six and eight. We live in an apartment where my mother moved three months ago. The landlord has been promising to repair the back fence and kitchen and cellar doors, but so far he has not done a thing. Someone broke in and stole our TV. Two other break-in attempts have been made. My mother is afraid to open her windows in her room. Please help our mother.

— A. M. A.

ANSWER: AFRO Line has made several unsuccessful attempts to contact your landlord. We suggest you contact Baltimore Neighborhoods, which is financed in part by United Fund-CICHA. The agency is located at 32 W. 25th St. or you may call 243-6007. The function of this agency is to investigate and mediate tenant-landlord complaints.

Poet's corner

Black Child

Black child, born upon this earth,
Smiling, yet unaware of the
negatism that blocks his rightful
fulfillments of life.
Growing, developing and
manifesting,
Manifesting knowledge to someday
eliminate the existing vices of
ignorance and racism.
Black child, born upon this earth,
Energetic, with gleaming eyes of
love, hope and true com-
munication to combat sin.
Facing mountainous struggles in
life.
Just by being black makes this
child a favorite candidate to
express inner social aggressions.
Black child, born upon this earth,
Someday wanting to eliminate the
unnecessary forces of
deprivation, he must later face.
His cherubic cheeks of joy, oh yes,
Will someday want and demand the
respect of people existing around
him.
Black child, born upon this earth,
Someday making it so that the truth
will come on its proper way,
black child.
Freedom, equality, happiness,
love,
Peace of mind and health are just
natural facts, Dig!

EDWARD SHIVERS JR.

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — More will be gained by listening to a friend's problems than cutting him off. There is a difference between friendship and taking advantage of one who is less competent.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Work is strictly business. Your position, prestige and authority will be greatly emphasized.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 20) — Those you thought you knew very well will surprise you. Unexpected action will be taken on both large and small matters.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Familiarize yourself with material at hand. When you learn the basic procedure, it could pay off in dividends.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Your tendency to overstate your opinion may cause sensitivity in relationships. Many believe you are more demanding than you really are.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — One who appears to be aloof is very much interested in you. This is not the time for false modesty.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Make every effort to come to terms with others. If you find this impossible now, leave the door open so you may return or that they may join you later.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Friendship is increasingly becoming affairs of the heart. If you are playing games, the stakes are high. Cancer and Pisces figure prominently.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You are fighting a losing battle trying to please everyone. A simple activity with friends will be more productive.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Letting important people alone can work two ways. You need not forego your pleasures in order to cater to others' whims.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Unnecessary burdens are making you a slave. You have no actual limitations when it comes to being creative. It's all in your mind.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be more confident in your natural abilities to revise and rebuild. Trust yourself. Higher-ups do.