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OPINION

Caucus Unity

As the opening of the Maryland General Assembly's 1983 session nears, there is growing evidence that the strength of our community's vote is being taken seriously, not only in Baltimore but statewide.

Barring any last minute political maneuvering, we expect some of our veteran legislators to add more lustre to the long list of achievements made by black Marylanders.

We fully expect Sen. Clarence Blount to be a dominant force in the body he has served so well.

We expect Delegates Larry Young, Hattie Harrison, John Douglass and Howard "Pete" Rawlings to be finally rewarded with Assembly posts equal to their talents and abilities to lead.

So it will be also with Senators Broadwater and Mitchell.

In 1983 because the statewide Democratic leadership knows full well as a result of the black election victories in the balloting just past, members of the Maryland black Legislative Caucus are being given their just due as lawmakers.

Their coming to power and influence is long overdue.

We have some words of counsel and caution for Caucus members however.

We will expect, and we think we speak for the community at large, that no member of the Caucus sacrifice the needs and the interests of our total community to appease any special interest group.

We would hope that the members of the Caucus always operate on the solid premise unity.

We perceive that the only thing that can reduce their effectiveness or betray the needs of our total community would be disunity within the Caucus.

Therefore, we would hope that the recent votes of incoming Sen. Nathan Irby and veteran legislator Troy Brailey on crucial assembly matters in which they ventured from the Caucus demonstration of unity not be a recurring theme.

We fully appreciate the commitments of Irby and Brailey have to organized labor and respect their need to represent this constituency ... but we would always want them to consider what is in the greatest benefit to the black community as a whole rather than to a sub-constituency such as the union movement.

As for Sen. Mitchell, he has been given new powers, a new challenge, and be assured, we will be watching.

The Caucus goes to the General Assembly stronger and more focussed than at any time in its history. We wish them all luck as they begin the struggle.

Backing off a terrible idea

Some administration officials sent up a trial-balloon last week to see if the government can tax unemployment benefits.

As expected the idea drew fire from Democrats and labor officials who said the proposed was another example of the Reagan Administration's insensitivity to the plight of the unemployed and the needy.

The White House has now officially backed off this terrible idea.

But, that is not the end of the story.

What bothers us is the rationale behind the proposal. It was reportedly one of eight options presented to the President for consideration to alleviate the unemployment crisis. The officials said it was never under serious consideration and the president was not even aware that the idea was among the possible options.

However, regardless whether Reagan knew about it or not before it surfaced, it is clear that some administration officials don't think that those on the unemployment line are there because they have to. They seem to view the American worker as lazy.

One senator labeled the proposal as "cynical and ludicrous" and added that it was just "one more in a long line of callous and insensitive proposals" from the White House that demeans the 11.6 million Americans who are unemployed.

These officials also seem to shift the blame for the economic problems to those on the unemployment line. It was a classical case of blaming the victim instead of the villain. As one labor leader said, "to attempt to raise more revenue from the ranks of the unemployed is to punish twice the chief victims of Reaganomics."

But, we will say this: the Administration was wise in abandoning the idea as soon as it did.

Ah, yes. There is a multiplier affect of this kind of consortium with the shadowy striation of underworld exhortation. Elated they are who continue the flow to both the respectable rich and the hungry needy, unwitting fools who supply the greedy.

Some would ask: "What is the harm?", without viewing with alarm the interdependency of all of us who are intrusted with the hope and belief that "No man is an island"—all of us who need relief.

Relief from the loneliness and despair, of the hoped for promise that someone is there to help his brother or sister out of despond in a world where life is an endless round of disappointments, frustrations and abandonment.

While their ideals we trample giving them no hope for example. We also school the next generation in the art of degradation with cynical forays into maxims that say:

"Do it, just do not get caught"—moral values out of synch with fleeting sober thought, knowing that the survival of a people belongs on the thin thread of righting (not supporting) the wrongs, that ultimately makes us strong.

Sure the contradictions of legality and illegality face us every day in every way. But our consciences must tell us that without some standards, without some understanding of how our lives are intertwined, we cannot two facedly, unmindfully, give credence to our own illegitimacy.

Sure, I have never used them—cocaine or marijuana, but then I have cigarettes and alcohol, librium and caffeine, diet pills, and aspirin, because you see, they are "clean". But the guilt should be there nevertheless, that we all must examine, when our minds are at their best: our legal addictions; our illegal predilections.

Otherwise will it be said of us that we do not really deserve replication, re-creation? Absurd! that really can not stop, with the machinery of gansterism played like a catechism on the heart-strings of those who would rather have chosen a better way of life for our striplings.

Parren J. **MITCHELL**

Complain and be kicked out

In the early 1960's, I became involved, deeply involved, in the struggle to secure and protect the basic rights of tenants who lived in public housing.

At that time, those who lived in public housing were subject to arbitrary actions such as evictions, rent increases, and the like. At that time, there were few, if any, tenant organizations approved by the government; and tenants, though properly housed, were given no say so about their lives in public housing.

Slowly, year after year, the struggle for tenants rights took place. Tenant organizations were formed. They were able to protest against elevators which did not work; against the lack of security; and against faulty repairs.

Twenty to 25 years later, HUD seeks to eliminate all the gains that tenants have made by proposing a new set of regulations which would limit tenants rights to two narrow categories. Hearings would be on the question of rent and on the issue of denial of admittance to public housing.

The proposed HUD regulations would undo all the gains that tenants in federally assisted housing have made. I am not shocked that the regulations would be proposed.

The Reagan administration has consistently shown insensitivity, or contempt, or both towards the poor of the nation. Just look at the proposal to tax unemployment compensation benefits.

That contempt is clearly demonstrated in the proposed regulations which, among other things, would: (1) evict tenants without a hearing; and (2) deny them a hearing on such items as faulty toilets; showers that do not work; and lack of heat.

I serve on the Housing Subcommittee of the Banking Finance and Urban Affairs Committee of the Congress. These regulations must come before that Subcommittee, and I can assure you that there is substantial opposition to them.

I can further assure you that I, and other members of the Housing Subcommittee, will be working to build that opposition so that we can soundly defeat these heartless regulations.

The Housing Subcommittee must also act to overturn the precocious rule which permits rents to be in excess of 25 percent of the total income of tenants living in federally assisted housing. To ask the poor and working poor, and senior citizens to pay more than 25 percent of their income for rent is dastardly.

Just as soon as the regulations are published (and that should be in the month of December), I hope all church groups, tenants groups, citizens groups, and all people of good conscie nce will flood HUD with letters, protesting the regulations.

Some of us on the Housing Subcommittee who have seen the proposed regulations have expressed our vehement opposition to HUD officials, but people support is needed if we are to win this fight.

Letters

Could the election of judges be a thing of past for voters?

Dear AFRO:

On Dec. 10, 1982, Kenneth L. Johnson will be sworn in as a Judge on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. He deservedly and overwhelmingly was elected by black and white voters.

If Gov. Hughes decides to accept the recent recommendation of a Special Commission to Study the Maryland Judiciary, and the Legislature approves, Kenneth L. Johnson will probably be the last judge to be directly elected by the voters of our City or any of Maryland's other subdivisions.

That Commission is recommending that candidates for all Circuit Court judgeships be initially nominated by a judicial selection commission then appointed by the governor and not challenged by candidates who either refused or failed to complete that process.

As President of the Monumental City Bar Association, I take this opportunity to say our Association has always supported the principle that our goverment is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Therefore, voters should be given every reasonable opportunity to elect those persons who are to represent and judge them.

While our Association always thought this position was an obvious one in that we have stated and reiterated it many times, because of the aforementioned development, we feel this is an appropriate time to remind Gov. Hughes and the members of the Maryland General Assembly and the general public of our steadfast stance.

There are several reasons for this position. Judges play very significant roles in our lives. They decide questions which affect our lives, liberty and property.

If voters can wisely elect a president, governor or senator and other public officials whose responsibilities are essential to daily living, then certainly they should be able to select their judges.

The election process also allows the electorate to weed out those persons whom they feel are least qualified to serve in judicial posts.

If one would only look at the last two general judicial elections, one would clearly see that the voters allowed certain judges to remain on the bench while others were rejected.

Our Association's position is voters should and must be entrusted with the right to vote for those attorneys who are willing to challenge the sitting judge principle.

Many readers might view this matter as being strictly racial, but the fact remains that at least three of our most distinquished white judges, James Murphy, Tom Ward and Paul Dorf, who sit on the Supreme Bench were elected directly by the voters as opposed to being appointed by the governor.

Finally, as President of the Monumental City Bar Association and as a newly elected Delegate of the 39th District to the Maryland General Assembly, I urge Gov. Hughes to reject this recommendation, and I pledge to the people of this State that should this matter come before the Maryland Legislature.

I will fight with every ounce of power in my body to make sure voters retain their right to place checks on the decisions of the governor and the Judicial Selection Commission.

I pledge the same effort in seeing that voters have the right to elect those persons they deem best qualified to serve them.

To do anything less would be a grievous breach of the electoral contract I have with those persons who cast their precious votes for me on Sept. 14.

I am sure the members of the Maryland Legislature, Black Caucus and the Monumental City Bar Association share my thoughts as well they should.

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
President,
Monumental City Bar Association
Delegate-Elect
39th Legislative District

Open letter to Hospital workers

All of you should be aware that we have been attempting to negotiate contracts since August. These negotiations began earlier, have gone longer and have been more difficult than any negotiations since the beginning of the union in Dec. 1969.

We have come a good ways in 13 year. We have gone from minimum wage and no benefits to having a living wage and some of the finest health benefits enjoyed by any workers in this country.

The hospitals, once again, are out to take us backward. What they seek to do is not to save money, but to gain greater control over our lives by forcing us to fight over every single benefit.

It is time the members take a stand to decide what our future will be. We must come out on Sunday, Dec. 5 to decide whether to accept management's proposals, and if not, what action we will take.

There will be two meetings at the Union Hall, 305 West Monument St., one at 1p.m. and one at 5p.m.

RONALD E. HOLLIE, President
DISTRICT 1199E,
NATIONAL UNION OF
HOSPITAL AND HEALTH
CARE EMPLOYEES

Madeline **MURPHY**

Ode to smokers and snorters

Of course, I have never used them—cocaine or marijuana. I do not wanna.

But then I have cigarettes and alcohol, librium and caffeine, diet pills and aspirin, because you see, they are "clean".

"Clean" because they are legal; put together, they are lethal.

Hangovers and cancer. Killers on the road. Addlepated Jitters can move your goal to unreality. Except the legality makes it better, yet the ostracism gives greater cause to pause and ponder.

Ponder, what victims we mortals be. Of excuses for relaxation, without aggravation, see. Elation from Sterling, Lily, Parke-Davis and Upjohn who barely rule out the real "Johns"—pill pushers all, some say without harm, while others view them with alarm.

The surreptitious snorting and dragging, juxtaposed against the obvious inhaling and gagging lead to the lumping together of the same result: stimulation.

Stimulation that gives escape for 45 minutes or less from reality. Stimulation of Valhalla, Utopia, to ease the stress capability, or just getting on with the repetitious, mundane lot in life that makes crutches of any kind, welcome relief, sometimes with, sometimes without grief.

Say for example there is a knock at the door.

Interruption or destruction? Deplore or implore?

For if it is the man in blue, no matter how harmless, no matter how guileless you are, in your secret pleasure, it is the law, his coldness and inflexibility that become the measure of your culpability.

Add to that the "Narcs" or cops all in bribery and corruption and you have a concoction of incredibility.

Psychological dependency or addiction? Whose to say which is the indication?

Recreational relaxation? The poor choice in a society where this kind of dangerous conceit is mangled in the tangled web of deceit.

Either on one side or the other, our tenacity to warped values make us victims all of the pushers of drugged incapacity. Acceptable or not, they are there to remind us of what we have forgot:

Too much "me" in a land of "we". Too much greed in the land of weed. Too much smoke in the pure air of hope. Too much jolt in the sub-cult of coke. (suddenly free-basing extends the all too short fantasy of time lapsing.)

The privileged among us accept the devilish perfidy of one rule for you and two for me. "I can do whatever I like within the privacy of home, kids and dogs; parakeets and cats; are my ministrations alone".

A false premise gone when the rationale of not interfering with others spills over into greedy complaints, into professional restrains. Will it muddy the cogency as to what covers the bill of services rendered?

With cost overruns quietly tendered for the support of addiction or psychological dependency?

Thus the coffers in illegal trade grow monumental with the aid of those whose plaints become hypocritical.

For the want of the weed; for the demand of snow, murders down the line are committed to keep legality inhibited,—kids on the street become ravenous drones, dregs in the barrel of broken homes.

Multiplied by the easy flow at the top that supports the culture

SAMUEL **BANKS**

The Klan's retreat

At a time of unprecedented and widespread suffering among black and poor people, a motley and execrable band of 36 Klansmen had the audacity to threaten a march down Pennsylvania Ave. in our nation's capitol on Saturday, Nov. 27.

In view of the devastating and egregious suffering among black and poor people the Klan's projected march was tantamount to pouring salt into an open wound.

As one of the more than 5,000 counterdemonstrators who waited at the Capitol in the wintry and numbing weather for more than three hours, it was graphically clear that the group, black and white, was determined to demonstrate to the Klansmen, if they had marched, that no one WITHOUT A THOUGHT OF CAUSING VIOLENCE, WAS AFRAID OR INTIMIDATED BY THEIR THREATENED MARCH.

It was necessary to demonstrate to the Klan their ideology of hate and violence would not be ignored or treated with a conspiracy of silence.

The effort, too, of Tom Tobb, a Klan chaplain from Arkansas, to divert attention by stating that the objective of the Washington march was to express opposition to a bill pending in Congress which grants amnesty to illegal refugees who entered the United States before 1977, obscured the Klan's central mission: peddling hate, religious bigotry and violence.

The moral courage, decency and determination of more than 5,000 citizens, black and white, within the framework of law and rationality, proved enormously influential in the decision of the 36 Klansmen to leave the Capitol via bus, and after a speedy and largely vacuous breast-beating in Lafayette Park, to make a hasty retreat across the Potomac River into Virginia.

The Klan's effort to use the Pennsylvania Ave. march, the first since 1925, as a national publicity plank had been thoroughly and ignominiously foiled.

It is, to be sure, very unfortunate and regrettable that violence ensued after it was learned that the Klan would not march and had left Lafayette Park

However, it is, nontheless, remarkable, given the level of suffering under Reagonomics and the intensity of the crowd, that greater violence and upheaval did not occur.

It is to the great credit of the overwhelming number of the counterdemonstrators that they obeyed the law and sought to dissuade others from committing acts of violence.

There simply was no way that black and white lovers of freedom and human dignity and freedom could remain silent in the face of the Klan's dare to march down Pennsylvania Ave. with impunity and disdain.

Racial and religious bigotry and tyranny must be resisted within the confines of the law in a free society. Frederick Douglass stated the case poignantly and piercingly over 125 years ago in Rochester, NY:

"Find out just what any people will quietly submit to 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." Douglass, too, reminds us: "Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow." In this connection, locally, there is a marvelous opportunity "to strike a blow for freedom" by joining the "Jubilee Day" celebration which has been planned by the Baltimore Branch, NAACP for Sunday, Jan. 2.

The Jubilee Day observance is an outgrowth of two significant developments in black life and history. The first of these two historical developments being the issuance by President Abraham Lincoln of the Emancipation Proclamation in Jan. 1863 following the battle of Antietam in Maryland in Sept., 1862.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not free the 3.5 million blacks who were then in slavery, inasmuch as the Confederacy controlled the territory, it provided a powerful psychological stimulus for blacks in bondage.

Although slaves were freed in Maryland by action of the General Assembly, most slaves in the nation were not set free until the adoption and ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865. The time for genuine celebration and "jubilee" had come to Blacks in America. It found expression in a black spiritual:

"Michael haul the boat ashore, Then you'll hear the horn they blow, Then you'll hear the trumpet sound, Trumpet sound the world around, Trumpet sound for rich and poor, Trumpet sound the Jubilee, Trumpet sound for you and me."

The preparations here for Jubilee Day involve a broad spectrum of the community (i.e., clergy, civic, educational, lay, etc.). The Jubilee Day Steering Committee is headed by the redoubtable Rev. Dr. Marion Bascom. Pastor of the Douglass Memorial Community Church.

Mrs. Enolia McMillan, the able and astute president of the Baltimore Branch, NAACP and an impressive array of individuals are now hard at work to make Jubilee Day on Jan. 2, an outstanding success.

You can help this timely and valuable effort for freedom and social justice through your monetary support, memberships and service on the various standing and ad hoc committees.

Any person desiring to assist should contact the Rev. Dr. Bascom at Douglass Memorial Community Church or Mrs. Enolia McMillan or Ms. Barbara Cooper at the NAACP office at 26 West 25th St. YOU ARE NEEDED NOW IN THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE FOR FULL FREEDOM. Please make contact today.

The foiling, through lawful means, of the Washington march planned by the Klan and the local preparations for Jubilee Day portray in a grim and palpable manner that A luta continua — The struggle continues." Your full and active witness is needed now in this season of hope and human renewal.

Tony Brown's Comments

Mammies, Toms and coons

Not enough can be said about the leadership being provided by the National Urban League and the NAACP to stop the racist stereotypes of Blacks on television and the underrepresentation of Black creative talent in the media-image industry.

After viewing our month-long TV series—Black TV Image Month-a viewer, Stanley Parks of New York City, had this to say:

"Are Blacks being discriminated against in the billion dollar world of TV commercials? Yes. Are Black being given the opportunity to show their talents? No.

"As we have seen on TV, the impression people get from watching TV is that Blacks can only make people laugh or dance."

But a Robert Stevenson of Visalia, California, in a very pleasant, intelligent letter, would have none of what we said on "Blacks In White TV" in Part I as he watched on the public TV station in Fresno, California:

"The concept of 'Blacks in white television' conveys an errroneous message. America is far from a homogenous nation, but if there is a common denominator, it must be that it is a white nation. Its institutions are essentially white. The television industry is necessarily white. Is it possible for America to have an industry, television or any other, which is 'black'? (Or Hispanic? Jewish? Female?)" Then why not call it "white" TV.

Mr. Stevenson's next point: "Stereotypes are shown in all colors. As in all groups. I suppose they're shown because they're colorful (no pun intended). But if the pickaninnies are atypical (archtypes or creatures of imagination), how about the Shirley Temples? or Beaver? or the current crop of confreres of Gary Coleman? Ever met an Elliott Ness, as shown on TV, and doubt that one existed. Nor was Our Miss. Brooks anyone I'd known. They were entertaining — caricatures, stereotypes, or archtypes all. But neither color nor racism had anything to do with it."

We're not making a fuss over Black stereotypes, either, just the fact that Black fools are, unlike the White ones, unbalanced with an Elliott Ness, Miss. Brooks, Dr. Marcus Welby or the average White folks like the Waltons.

I believe that if Black people can change their image on television and in movies, Black people can change their condition in America. After more than three decades of television and Black involvement with the medium, our image still adds up to fat mammies, rascally picaninnies, shuffling Uncle Toms and dimwitted coons.

As sad as it is, as cruel as it is, commercial TV's situation comedies and its various facets treats our image with little dignity and sees little need to help us develop a better one. In my opinion, it is primarily the constant bombardment of our minds with modern-day Toms, picaninnies, mammies and dimwitted coons as role models for our children and our minds that inflict the fatal paralysis of self-hatred.

I do not wish to convey the impression that Black comics should be eliminated. Instead, more roles for Blacks should be added in either areas to give more balance to the picture.

Anyway, Blacks are basically just like Whites. Most of us are average; we have a few geniuses and a liberal sprinkling of fools. That's the balance we need in television.

It boggles your mind today when you realize that the TV industry once actually had a choice: To present Afro-Americans as tey really are or to present them as they live in the imaginations of others. The image that my people have of themselves is the most germane issue in their existence. It's not a knowledge of how many cars or how much jewelry some so - called star owns, but a knowledge of who we are, where we've been and where we're going that constitutes a practical wisdom of freedom.

And that depends on us knowing what we are. Therefore, if this society is not willing to give us that wisdom, then we'll have to get it ourselves, because we can't live in self-respect without it.

Most media professionals will agree on one thing: Viewers shape TV. We'll have to write letters to the networks, local TV stations and the advertisers, expressing an interest in an accurate depiction of us and thanking those who show the sensitivity to treat us accurately and fairly. We'll also have to write and produce more of ourselves, material for ourselves.

Because we've been so beaten down psychologically, we sometimes lack faith in our own ability to change things. But it's that faith, that's the key.

My faith gives me the boldness to believe that God has not deserted us and never shall. My faith is also the basis for my logic which tells me that if we can change out image on television and in the movies, we can disturb the racial unbalance.

We would then be reborn in the image of a proud people, a self-sufficient people, a people with a past who have made today's America and world possible. But first, Blacks will have to realize that they are not fat mammies, rascally picaninnies, shuffling Uncle Toms and dimwitted coons.

The Africans have a beautiful proverb that sums all of this up: "It's not what you call me, it's what I answer to."

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, can be seen on public television Friday, on WAPB Channel 22, at 11 p.m. It also can be seen on channel WMPB Channel 67, Friday at 11 p.m. Please consult listings.

AFRO welcomes letters

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.

Elizabeth M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

If you were born June 22-July 22, the sign of Cancer, December opens the best years of your entire life

THE MOST ASTOUNDING future ever outlined by astrology is found in the forecast for persons born in the sign of Cancer, June 22 - July 22.

I HAVE NEVER read such wonderful predictions in the more than 20 years I have followed the American Astrology Magazine (which by the way marks its 60th year this year.)

IT'S A HOBBY with me especially as deep winter approaches, I find a favorite chair and settle down to reading my favorite books. Always hoping to find some secret of life to unfold, I like Mary Baker Eddy's Science and Health, the magical KEY to the Bible.

EVERYWHERE I have travelled on this planet I have found a Christian Science Church in the heart of the most thriving, highest neighborhood. This signifies tremendous success in the CS teachings. Whatever the language CS believers speak, you immediately understand somehow.

This year, I am fond of the mysteries of astrology and astronomy.

BUT BACK TO CANCER - BORN persons (over 10 million in the USA).

DECEMBER finds Saturn entering Scorpio and Cancer's 5th solar house which along with Jupiter's presence through late December unlocks the door that "lets you step out of the closet into the Sun!"

TAKING OUT several paragraphs, the most meaningful ones in the broad overview of Cancer's wonderous life to come, we will quote the highlights and then you may seek out an astrological book for yourself.

THERE IS NO DOUBT that all the astrologists do agree since the study is now highly scientific and no longer hocus-pocus. Regardless, the whole aspect is interesting and certainly not harmful.

JUPITER transiting Scorpio offers the Cancer-born person the cream of the crop where opportunities for self-satisfaction and success are concerned.

Cancer people experience an upsurge in confidence, faith in the future and ability to mold it to your liking as you go along.

HEALTH AND SPIRITS rise along with the tide of material good fortune.

A HOBBY will suddenly develop unusual commercial and financial possibilities.

YOU DEVELOP a quiet confidence, faith in yourself not based upon wishful thinking but upon realization of where you stand, what you have going for you and are able to realistically appraise your future.

LATE DECEMBER finds Jupiter entering its own sign, Sagittarius, and cojoining Uranus in Cancer's 6th house, relating to health and work areas of life. Those suffering chronic ailments may find a remarkable new treatment and cure.

Those free of maladies can ensure that this condition of well-being continues through creating a new program of physical fitness and nutritional improvement.

THE CONJUNCTION of Jupiter and Uranus especially through February, 1983, can mark sudden change in a career situation. Those who have retired or are largely confined to a domestic environment, may find a sudden urge and an unexpected opportunity to break free from "enclosure" and get out into the mainstream of professional life in some unique way.

CANCER PEOPLE suddenly have fired ideals, new enthusiasms, encouraging attitudes and achievement potentials.

DECEMBER'S Saturn now begins a healing process in your life initiating growth of new tissue.

DECEMBER, when Jupiter cojoins Uranus, suddenly it all comes into focus. You see what should be in your life and find the means (often unexpectedly and through surprising channels) to make it all happen.

YOU SUDDENLY rediscover that life is worth living. Life now becomes a brand new cause and the living of it an art.

LIFE EVER renews itself. Winter's chilling memories fade with abundant richness of yet another spring.

THIS REALIZATION is of special importance to Cancers ruled by the Moon, supreme mistress of all life's most basic cyclical processes.

WITH BOTH JUPITER and Uranus entering Sagittarius and your 6th solar house (which has to do with the methods, means and processes of living on its most basic functional levels) Uranus enables you to acquire a whole new set of how-to-do-its in living and Jupiter enables you to do things better than before.

BUT, it is Neptune's presence here that keeps alive the sacred flame, the longing for something other than what is laid before you, that keeps you moving ahead toward new goals, ideals, visions of future improvements over the present.

NEPTUNE enables you to perceive the spiritual significance in every aspect of life, no matter how small.

NEPTUNE this year can make you more aware of the fact that the totality of life's force is at your disposal if you are determined to push hard enough.

ERIC AMBLER'S latest novel of international intrigue and suspense, "The Care of Time," has as its most subtle motif the fact that no matter what distortions and terrors we create in our lives and those of others, TIME takes care of the matter.

WE ARE the vehicles of both the forces of anarchy and balancing.

PLUTO'S passage through Libra and your solar house may have produced fissures and eruptions the past few years.

NOW, as Saturn moves out of this zone (in November) a healthy rehabilitation begins. You fine that Time does take care of things. Pluto regenerates, rejuvinates, resuscitates.

CANCERS are now entering a new phase of life which is fantastic. Moon children respond more powerfully than most others to the tides of life.

BY ALIGNING your interests and actions with the transits of Mars you can more effectively move toward your practical goals in every way, every day.

THE FIRST 10 DAYS of December, the turning point, JUST RELAX.

DECEMBER 11-19, the sudden turn for the better occurs, a financial breakthrough or benefit you did not expect.

YOUR INTUITIVE POWERS are strong and reliable. The rest of December favors original and innovative matters.

CANCER PEOPLE are now looking ahead to at least THREE YEARS of steady progress in personal and material pursuits and can rest assured that what you achieve will be permanent.

ADVICE TO CANCERS - Select an astrological reference you find to your own liking and interest and for diversion, follow it along and see.

IT IS CERTAIN you can not lose.

A REMINDER - December skies found the planets the brightest in the days of those old astronomers, the Three Wise Men (who history reveals were the ancient scholars and students of astronomy) and then followed the brightest star.

IN HARD TIMES, we can find diversion and balance in good books, learning and discovering new paths of life at home. By yourself, you can get away from gloom and doom and rise and shine. Nice, ain't?

The Literary Corner

By Carlos Johnson

'Faith and the Good Thing'

This is the story of Faith Cross and her guest for the "good thing." The story opens with Faith's mother Lavidia on her death bed. Faith is 18 years old. Faith's father Todd, was killed when he was six years old by vigilantes. The setting of this mantic tale is rural Hatten County, Georgia. The date is uncertain.

Moments before Faith's mother dies she tells her only child, "Girl, you get yourself a good thing." Thus Faith, always obedient, sets out to find this good thing, whatever or where ever it might be found. Faith's first stop on her journey is to the legendary swamp woman of Hatter County.

Except for may be in Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man. You get the feeling that Johnson has been influenced by Ellison. Arnold Tippis and Dr. Barrett, with his Doomsday Book are on odd bunch. Faith crosses life is to be substantially affected by these two.

Faith's journey takes her on many paths, some give pleasure and some pain. You will have to read Faith and the Good Thing to find out if she finds it. Charles Johnson is quite a story teller I recommend this book - faith and the Good Thing.

More letters

Can't Duffy accept defeat?

Dear AFRO:

I have been following the newspapers coverage of the Register of Wills election campaign for Baltimore City.

It occurs to me that the lame duck incumbent Patrick J. Duffy cannot come to grips with the fact that he has been soundly defeated.

The voters of Baltimore have sent Mr. Duffy a resounding message by casting more than 10,000 ballots for Mary W. Conaway a black woman insurgent while casting just more than 11,000 votes for the white political machine incumbent Patrick J. Duffy.

Why won't Patrick Duffy accept the voters mandate and gracefully vacate his office?

Patrick Duffy has created a pungent order of sour grapes that will linger over this city for a long time.

Therefore, I conclude that:

Patrick J. Duffy sat on a wall
Patrick J. Duffy had a great fall,
All of Duffy's lawyers and all of Duffy's men won't be able to put Duffy in office again.

OLA W. BUSH

Do we really need a sleep bill

Dear AFRO:

The problem of people sleeping and living in the streets of Baltimore is one of sadness and shame.

Sad, because they have absolutely no place to stay. Shameful, because one solution, other than being housed in jail has not been tried.

The very best refuge, in my opinion, would be our churches. There are churches all over this entire city—warm, beautiful, comfortable, and except for Sunday morning services (and a few revival-evangalistic weekly services) they are EMPTY!!!

Could not these people stay in these churches at night. If there would be those of the affluent and or misunderstanding, objecting to these poor and homeless remaining in the main "Sanctuary", perhops they would feel that these people would be happy to just being allowed to stay in one of the many anti-rooms of the church.

Most churches of this city are rich and has made the minister so rich that he or she cannot see the suffering as he leaves his soft pulpit; enter his warm, plush car, to return to his comfortable, pleasant home.

"Come unto me, all who are burdened (and cold, and homeless and hungry) and I will give you rest for the body and soul.

Do we really need a SLEEP BILL?

LORETTA CRYOR TAZWEL