Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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No 'new' Schaefer

If there is a "new" William Donald Schaefer Our spectacles need changing.

We thought the mayor would shift his emphasis in this term to more human aspects of city revitalization and that he would finally begin to address himself to the problems of the majority of Baltimoreans — black residents.

Thus far since the inauguration we have been sorely disappointed.

Rather than move closer to our realities Schaefer seems to have deliberately decided to insult our dignity and intelligence every chance he gets.

Schaefer has recently rejected such approaches as accelerated black and other minority appointments to the municipal agencies and boards claiming he will not play a racial numbers game.

Which is absurd seeing as how his appointments to city boards are what has caused a racial imbalance to begin with.

He rejects, through some tricky rhetoric, an improved incidence of black and other minority participation in contract profits.

To allay black criticisms of his policies of racial imbalance in the appointments of blacks and females to policy posts and the general lack of zeal to generate contracts for minority enterprise, the mayor took the politically expedient route of shutting down critics by handing out some favors to self-appointed albeit elected black officials.

Not content with all that Schaefer flies in the face of all known sentiment on the emotional issue of rent control — a measure some 76 percent of black Baltimoreans, favored — by naming one of the principal popponents of rent control to the pivotal post of chairman of the Planning Commission.

This, given the circumstances, is akin to appointing a Klan grand dragon to monitor civil rights violations against minority citizens or at least putting the fox in with the chickens.

Rent control advocates have told the mayor that to appoint Charles Colson, no relation to the Watergate Colson, is to put an individual on the Planning Commission who only represents "narrow economic interests."

We agree. Certainly there are others eminently qualified to serve who have evidenced interest in moving with the peoples needs as opposed to thwarting the needs of the people.

We do not know what Schaefer will do next to indicate his historic and continuing disdain for the largest bloc of residents in the city...all we know is given recent events we are braced for more of the same.

Statehouse racism

The federal government through the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is taking action on what it finds to be a clear case of job discrimination within the Maryland State Department of Legislative Reference.

The particulars of the government's case are contained in a news story in this edition of the AFRO.

Within that article is a weed sort of disclaimer by General Assembly Speaker Beth Cardin who says in effect job bias in this branch of government might have been a reality in the past but the situation is changing.

Cardin must think we are all fools.

According to EEOC, there has been no diminution of racism within the Department of Legislative Reference.

Cardin has been in and around Annapolis enough years to know that such pooh-poohing no longer sits well with our community.

Cardin has been around long enough to know that recent hasty cosmetics (the hiring of five black lawyers in Legislative Reference, for example) does not cover up the ugly face of that agency's personnel practices.

What the Assembly speaker can do is take government steps from within his power to get an affirmative action plan implemented within this agency and all the other bastions of state government where racism is still business as usual.

JUST THINKING

Where were the real black leaders?

By Al Sweeney

If you think that this writer is going to tell what really happened at the Richmond conference for the Black Agenda of the 80's then you have another thought coming.

The problems that blacks endure in this nation are too serious to reel off a story that would make the Amos n Andy programs of the early days of television a classic.

But, if the truth were told the Richmond conference would be like a meeting of the "Kinglish and his Mystics Knights of the sea.

So, let's dismiss the in - depth appraisal of the Richmond conference with being "an unqualified success." Think about that appraisal a second time and I believe that you will really get the idea.

Among the big news coming out of the black leaders meeting is that Ben Hooks is about to hang it up and depart from the National NAACP.

It seems that Hooks had a three - year contract with the civil rights group. It's about to run out and, according to his confidants, he isn't about to get it renewed.

Hooks has been the star of an independent television program that has regular slots on some 70 stations around the nation. So, he'll survive and in fine style without his present headaches.

Therefore, the nationwide search for Hooks successor will be on. The next NAACP leader will have to have stamina of a mountain climber.

The NAACP is financially strapped. But, it is still the only quasi - independent wheel in town, so to speak. Therefore it must be kept alive.

The structure is still around. There are chapters in every state of the union. The branches in Mississippi, for instance, are very lively.

The Montgomery county chapter of the NAACP in the Washington area is solvent. It is a good organization.

The Prince George's County chapter of the NAACP seems to be split along political lines. Of all the groups in the metropolitan area, the Prince George's NAACP should be the most vibrant.

The Washington, D.C. branch of the NAACP continues to limp along. Some day the people who dominate the leadership will open doors and let the people in and the branch will be a thriving group.

Black folks in this city have problems. They need an unfettered NAACP to fight their problems in the public and private sectors. But, as long as the lid is kept on by the group that runs the organization like a private club, it will be just that. A secret society that every few people know or care about.

Let's face it. The D.C. branch will never change.

The Richmond conference while again underlining the creeping paralysis that has hit the movement seemed to have proved the contention of Dr. Chancellor Williams, the retired Howard U. historian.

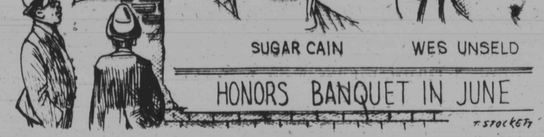
Dr. Williams has been telling his students that the idea that politics will be a cure - all for the plight of Blacks is another one of those games that "those folks are running us."

What we need is economic power, Dr. Williams insists.

It seems that the Richmond conference proved that. According to insiders, the conference wound up more than $20 - grand in debt. The problem is that many of the alleged sponsoring groups have washed their hands of any financial involvement by pleading that they weren't really involved.

Clarence Townes, one - time national GOP leader and now an operator of a bus line in Richmond, is really stuck.

Townes furnished first - call bus service and worked long hours transporting delegates. Everyone agreed that he provided excellent service. But, nobody knows how he will be paid.



Madeline MURPHY

Seen in the TV program guide this week is a film entitled "Brave New World" Friday, NBC, 9 p.m. The description of the film goes like this:

"Based on Aldous Huxley's classic, in the future a totalitarian government rules a world where no one ages beyond 35; testtube babies are mass produced for specific societal functions, and the populace is numbed by government furnished drugs.

And although Huxley's book moves us six centuries hence, the wide idea sounds terrifyingly close.

It seems in the '80s, what has been quietly going on since 1965 is genetic engineering that not only frightens us, but is incredible.

Listening to Dr. William Shockley on a late night talk show, I entered all the nightmares of genocide that have nagged most of us as we have witnessed Negro removal (urban renewal), soaring unemployment, sterilization, abortion as birth control, total emasculation of our educational system and the general determination of the black family.

Dr. Shockley bemoaned the fact that "we have failed to diagnose and understand the American tragedy of the IQ deficiency of rural uneducated American NEGRO families.

Moreover, that "the low socio - economic black community is the most fertile and is more than doubling at a rate of 5.4 children per family."

Thus the need for a sperm bank, where Nobel Prize winners would preserve sperm for the insemination of women with IQ's of 160 and over so that a super race would be developed.

Already there are numerous takers and Dr. Shockley, over 70 years old, has already made his contribution ... the first in a line of recruits he hopefully wishes to indoctrinate.

He was particularly distressed that people consider him a racist when he only wishes to "open an opportunity."

But much as he may deny this appelation and the fact that he is moving toward the idea of a Master Race, just like Hitler, one can only read in this new "opportunity", the intentions deepening of the benign neglect that we have experienced, especially within the last decade.

It is no secret to students of human behavior, that in times of depression, high unemployment, recession that the wildest suggestions are offered to counteract social unrest and we always wind up the scapegoats.

To deplore the low socio economic plight of the rural black family should not be enough, if there were any humanitarians around.

To blame the victims of racial oppression for their own condition, is reminiscent of the Jim Crow era.

Further, Shockley and Dr. Arthur Jensen, have both established the hopelessness in their minds of caring or doing anything about the problems of the poverty - stricken in this country. First by labeling them as never being of any use and gradually reaching the conclusion that these worthless human beings must be exterminated ... just like Hitler.

Dr. Shockley and the sperm bank

What never ceases to amaze me in all these numbers games of how many are on the top and how the 15 percent are black who will never measure up in IQ results is, whom have they defined as black? and then white?

In a melting pot country such as ours, what percentage of the black community is pure African? And then if you trace the genes of the pure Africans, who built empires in Africa, were the artisans in this country, the surgeons in Timbucktu, when most Anglo - Saxons, etc., were eating with their hands, living in caves, wouldn't it stand to reason that those hundreds of thousands who passed for white or intermarried have actually elevated the IQs of these primitive whites?

Lots of crazy notions go around in my mind, but if we were to stop being defensive about these wild engineers, maybe we could think of several logical conclusions.

But to get back to reason, the New York Times in a recent editorial remarked that in tests of two very bright people getting married and having children that the children in most cases would be nearer the national average in intelligence; would regress in intelligence to the national mean. It would be highly unlikely that they would produce more intelligent children.

So you say, what's all the fuss about anyway?

The real danger in this kind of development of a brave new world by cold blooded genetic engineers, who are also racists, is that it reminds the lunatic fringe, like the KKK, the John Birch Society, the mayors and governors and the president, who want to believe it anyway, who must revert to the type and become overt in their acts of repression against us.

Mystically, however, how strong is our will abd ability to survive!

Maggie Walker, outstanding woman

By Parren Mitchell

I have introduced a legislative measure in the U.S. House of Representatives which would provide for the striking and public sale of a commemorative medallion in honor of an outstanding American black woman.

This tribute is to Maggie Lena Walker, who had the distinguished honor of being the first woman president of an American bank. The bank survives today in the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company in Richmond, Va.

Maggie Walker was born in Richmond on July 15, 1867 to William and Elizabeth Mitchell. She began public service when she joined, at the age of 14, an organization called the Independent Order of St. Luke. This association, basically an insurance society, was created in 1867 in Baltimore for the purpose of helping the sick and burying the dead during the post - Civil War period.

In addition to this benevolent goal, the organization encouraged self - help and racial solidarity. It existed for awhile along with an earlier established fraternal order, the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers, a "full - fledged mutual benefit stock company," incorporated in 1883. Its bank failed in 1910, leading to the demise of the True Reformers in 1911.

During the course of her membership, Ms. Walker progressed rapidly through the ranks of the Independent Order of Saint Luke — from secretary of Good Idea Council No. 16, to appointment as a delegate to the annual convention at Petersburg, Va., to Grand Sentinel; and on to even higher elected offices such as Right Worthy Grand Chief and National Deputy. As Executive Secretary, Ms. Walker established councils in Virginia and West Virginia.

Educated in Richmond Public and Normal Schools, Maggie Walker continued her studies at Virginia Union University, where she received an honorary master of science degree in 1925. Ms. Walker was a trustee of the university in 1931, and in that same year, was the director of a training and an industrial school in the District of Columbia and Virginia respectively.

Ms. Walker served as president of the Council of Colored Women Inc., as the vice - president of the Negro Organization Society of Virginia; on the executive board of the NAACP and with other fraternal organizations throughout her life.

Maggie Walker taught school from 1883 until 1886. It was in 1886 that she married Armstead Walker. After her marriage, she continued her interest in and association with the Independent Order of St. Luke, and became one of its strongest supporters.

Just prior to 1890, in honor of her tenancity, the Independent Order of St. Luke named Magdalene Council No. 125 for Ms. Walker. She subsequently proceeded to develop a proposal and governing rules for the formation of a juvenile branch of the organization, and was elected secretary of the Endowment Department in 1897.

In 1899 the Order was suffering a serious decline in membership and cash availability leading to huge indebtedness. The Grand Secretary, W.M.T. Forrester, refused to serve any longer because of a salary dispute and the floundering condition of the Order.

Maggie Walker accepted the position of grand secretary (or executive secretary) at a salary lower than that of Forrester's, but was extremely successful in revitalizing the work of the Order. She raised the membership from 1,000 to 20,000 within seven years.

After 25 years, Mrs. Walker was commended for her accomplishments: increases, from a total of 57 active councils to 1,500; from 3,400 members to approximately 100,000; from assets of only $31.66 to nearly $400,000; and directing of the construction of a brand new four - story brick office building at 900 St. James Street in Richmond, replacing the old building. Also, the business of St. Luke now provided employment to 50 men and women as compared to only five original employees.

The Order had varied business interests — a real estate association, a retail store, a printing plant, a bank and a newspaper. The St. Luke Herald, of which Maggie Walker was editor, was begun in 1901 to satisfy the need for a closer communication between members of the Order and with the public.

Many accolades and gratuities have been bestowed upon Maggie Walker as expressions of the high esteem in which others held her. The striking of a commemorative medallion in her honor will be a symbol of this Congress' and the nation's continued commitment to recognizing the contributions of great Americans.

LETTERS

Our caucus: '... show of cowardice'?

Dear AFRO:

The recent show of cowardice by the "Maryland Black Caucus," in regards to its back down from Mayor Schaefer over demands they had made to the mayor, was on of the most disgusting acts by black leadership in recent times.

Indeed, except for Delegates Walter Dean, John Douglass, Wendell Phillips and Larry Young, who voted against the mayor, how can they dare show their faces in Baltimore City again?

The Caucus, in a brilliant effort, threatened to vote against the Mayor's highly touted bond package in Annapolis if he didn't: 1) commit 25 per cent of all bond contracts to minorities; 2) appoint, one for one, a black for a white on all appointments to city boards and commissions; 3) do likewise with all appointments to his administration. The mayor called their bluff and said "no"!

According to daily newspaper, "The mayor said he "absolutely" does not believe municipal boards and commissions should reflect the racial makeup of predominantly black Baltimore." "One-on-one "black appointment policy" just cannot be done; it's not acceptable."

In addition, the mayor offered his own 25 percent minority participation program. A program whose enforcement lies only in the committment of the same man (the mayor), who does not believe boards and commissions should reflect the city's racial makeup.

I formerly was employed by the city's Community Relations Commission and was part of the team that originally raised the question of a minority business program in the city.

More recently, I was employed in the Office of Equal Opportunity Compliance, the office under City Solicitor Benjamin Brown, that was charged with developing a minority business program, the same program offered to the "Caucus" by the mayor.

Sen. Robert Douglass, chairman, state legislative black caucus

Mayor William Donald Schaefer

That program was first announced in October, 1979, but it still has not been implemented.

I left my job with the city in November, 1979 with disgust and contempt for the joke he city was perpetrating on the black community in the guise of this so called 25 percent participation minority business program.

While it may look good on paper thre is absolutely no teeth in the enforcement of the program.

After all this time, it still hasn't been implemented, no committment from the mayor.

The city department heads (Brodie, Liem, Kuchta, etc.), are responsible for the implementation of the program.

If they don't meet the goals, they only have to answer to the mayor. In addition, the program allows them to substitute 10 percent of the 25 percent goal by using female firms. There is a serious need in the program to require goals to be met, and to require independent monitoring and enforcement.

In summation, the caucus has failered at a very inopportune time, but one must ask: why?

Rumor has it that some key votes were lost by trade-offs with the mayor. Surely, trade-offs are part of the political process, but there comes a time when questions of racial group, neighborhood, or community unity outweighs one's cherished project.

It's time for men to stand up and be men, and be counted as true leaders.

Until that happens, the majority community and its leaders will continue to treat the minority community and our leaders with scorn and disrespect.

GEORGE N. BUNTIN

G. JAMES FLEMING

Morgan State and the public

One of the myths concerning Morgan State University — persistent in some quarters, but not true — is that the board of regents, the policymakers of the institution, does not "keep the broader community aware of issues confronting the institution," except in times of crisis, to use the words of fellow-columnist Samuel L. Banks, himself a respected educator and administrator.

In a recent column, he continued:

"The board of regents will make a fatal mistake if it on the one hand seeks community support when crises develop, but, on the other hand, ignores community interest and input in more tranquil times."

We (this column and the board of regents, of which this writer is the incumbent chairman) agree with that assertion by Dr. Banks.

The truth is, however, that the board does not ignore the community. It tries to keep the community informed through its radio station (WEAA-89); through releases to the newspapers and the electronic media and through a stream of publications; through semi-monthly meetings which are open to the public; through the appearance of the president of the university on TV and radio and before religious and civic organizations; and through its responding to the concerns of responsible community groups.

Morgan State University recognizes the importance of the black community. On the one hand, on two occasions in the past five years, the Board of Regents has listened to delegations of ministers expressing their concerns about Morgan (Every spring the university joins with the Morgan Christian center and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance in sponsoring the Howard Cornish Seminars).

The board also listened, not so long ago, to a group of black professionals and it has answered letters from concerned citizens.

Student officers and non-affiliated students have had continuous conferences with the president and a student sits on the board of regents, as the liaison of the study body with the board. Incidentally, she is elected by the students.

There is also a Regents-Faculty-Staff Committee, and the president of the Faculty Senate has an "open-door" to the president's office.

The board of regents and the president keep lines open with public officials on every level of government, both serving and being served. The Legislative Black Caucus and the city delegation in the General Assembly are invited to the campus in times when there is no crisis, in addition to times of crisis. Individual legislators also turn to Morgan whenever they need to do so.

While the regents' meetings are open to the public, few members of the community take advantage of attending, except when some group has some axe to grind. Usually, such a group or committee does not even remain throughout the remainder of the meeting at which it has prevented its "grievances."

The Board of Regents has not attempted to "sweep anything under the rug, or to ignore allegations made by anyone against the board itself or the chief executive of the institution. Corrective or punitive motions made to the board have been duly considered and voted up or down — passed or defeated.

In its very first year (1975) the board set up a standing Evaluation Committee, at the suggestion of the incoming President Andrew Billingsley and, or his recommendation, also planned an indepth evaluation of him and his presidency in the fifth year of his employment.

There has also been a sense of continuous evaluation of the board itself at the retreats held by the regents annually and in the periodic meetings of the Evaluation Committee. In addition, board members also attend the meetings of the Association of Governing Boards, composed of delegates from the boards of trustees and regents of the 1,500 colleges and universities in the country.

A handful of board members and non-board members who repeat that "the board has done nothing" or "the board is marking time" are just not interpreting the facts truthfully or correctly, or they do not know the facts.

They come more nearly saying that they do not want to wait for the reports of the evaluation process long decided upon or of any other examination of the presidency now under way — both of which have been dealt with in news columns in recent weeks.

This handful also ignores that the attorney general of Maryland, with whom charges were filed in April 1979, and who has heard directly from this handful, has said in writing, that he has found nothing criminal or illegal in the material submitted to him. Appeals by the handful to the U.S. attorney have also been tabled, up to this time. None of the state or federal agencies which evaluate Morgan periodically has found any malfeasance.

The public, including our good friend, Dr. Banks, must be careful not to give to blackmail or quasi-blackmail more status than it deserves. The people of good-will must also be careful not to label everything they disagree with at Morgan as criminal, illegal, or stupid.

The board of regents has listened to its own members and to the diverse segments of the community — students, faculty, alumni, legislators and officers of the executive branch of government, contributors, the press, and the taxpayers. If this writer read, the majority of the board correctly, it will continue to listen and to share with all its constituencies. It will also continue, however, to refuse to conduct Star-Chamber proceedings or guerrilla warfare; or to give undue respectability to gossip and allegations without evidence.

Again, if we read the board correctly, it is not of a mind to give up its legal responsibilities to that handful who enjoy the high privilege of being without the burdens and responsibilities of the day-by-day and month-by-month decisions of the university.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY'S Baltimore alumni chapter, Miles W. Connor Chapter, affair Sunday at 5 p.m. has had to add more chairs in the huge and beautiful Woodlawn High auditorium to push the number of guests over the 2,000 mark, the largest group yet.

President Harlow Fullwood reveals that the VUU choir is going to sing its heart out but there is more. Dr. Dorothy Cowling, the college's vice president will be there to stand for Dr. David T. Shannon, the new president who was just inaugurated this morning (Friday) at the Richmond campus event. Fullwood and many other Baltimoreans are there for the weekend events and will be back in Baltimore in time for Sunday's program at Woodlawn. With them will be 35 students from VUU who will be hostesses.

AND THERE IS MORE- The Woodlwan Hi screen will show a graphic story and Fullwood dares to have anyone say there has ever been a better event ever held in Baltimore. In addition to six honorees, three women and three men, there will be the talent hunt with students from 10 Baltimore high schools who will receive scholarships and cash and trophies and other goodies from three banks who are sponsors and McDonalds.

ABSENT from the Legislative Black Caucus banquet Tuesday night were Gov. Hughes and Mayor Schaefer. Lt. Gov. Bogley was there for a moment however, it seems that the governor and the mayor should have been there in person. The 20 members of the Legislative Black Caucus members of the Maryland General Assembly are important to each other when it comes to passing legislation they want.

THE AFFAIR was splendid and everybody, regardless of color, arrived in a jolly mood and beautifully dressed. The big green buttons worn by the 20 Caucus members signified their choice- Kernan for Congress - to replace Clarence Long. How about that!

Kernan, a pleasant little man with lots on the ball was there and enthusiastically applauded. Also receiving sustained applause were Councilman Mfumi, Del. Hattie Harrison who was referred to as the Mother Hen and who was frocked in a floor-length gown.

CHAIRMAN FRANK M. CONAWAY also received rousing cheers for the successful event he and Sen. Bob Douglass planned and perfected. 'Twas a grand affair with "everybody present and accounted for." all the heads of state and local government, some from the various counties and Ed Barraine, the insurance commissioner.

OF COURSE Cong. M Mitchell stole the show when he arrived with his aide, Jerry Lymas. Another popular table-hopper was Dr. Andy Billingsley who received some cheers and loud applause.

THOSE kinds of things tell you something when you have a large crowd.

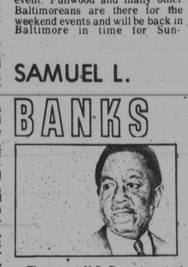
DON'T FORGET Sen. Tommie Broadwaters Farmers Market at 3110 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill, Md. where you can get EVERYTHING from soup to nuts and novelty items too.

BLACK AMERICAN Law Students Asso. of the U. of Md. School of Law has a fabulous affair coming up Sunday, March 30, 5:30 to 11, at the Fontaine Bleu with Iman Wallace Deen Muhammad, leader and president of the World Community of Al-Islam in the West as main speaker.

THAT 5th Annual Awards banquet will well be worth the $20 ticket. Gonna go ? Don't miss.

SAMUEL L. BANKS

Ali's African trip — 'a disaster'



The recent U.S. Department of State - sponsored safari of Muhammad Ali to five African nations was an unmitigated and troubling disaster. The overt purpose of the trip was to dissuade the African states in terms of boycotting the Olympics in the Soviet Union. The leaders of the five African states, overwhelmingly, repudiated the ill - conceived, ill - planned and ill - executed Ali mission.

It should be noted that the African leaders, even those who refused to receive him, have no malevolent or hostile feelings toward Muhammad Ali as a person.

In point of fact, he is universally respected and loved by black people south of the Sahara because of his magnificent achievements as heavyweight champion of the world and his staunch commitment to freedom and human uplift for 30 million black Americans, black Africans and Third World peoples.

He was, unfortunately, prodigiously miscast and unprepared as an ambassador without portfolio. In this instance, President Carter and the State Department, in fact, bear the primary responsibility for this diplomatic fiasco.

There are cogent and instructive lessons inherent in the abortive diplomatic mission of Ali which have urgent pertinence to black Baltimoreans and the broader black community. The basic elements of the lessons are as follows:

1. **The Carter Administration in the Muhammad Ali assignment provided credence and support to the spurious and deleterious national notion of white America that black people are not to be taken seriously.**

If the Carter administration had entertained a serious view of high level and substantive negotiation and believed that the Black American could best effectuate this, then, President Carter and the State Department would have chosen from a panoply of highly accomplished and revered black Americans.

Such distinguished black Americans as Drs. John Hope Franklin, James E. Cheek, Merze Tate, Benjamin Quarles, Joseph Harris, Broadus Butler, Dorothy Height, Mary Berry and Mrs. Yvonne B. Burke, Messrs. Benjamin Hooks, Henry Marsh, Vernon Jordan and Carl Holman, among others, would have brought class, decisiveness and perspicacity to this diplomatic mission. The grim reality, given the self - serving nature of the mission, none of them, in my view, would have accepted.

The great tragedy is that President Carter and the State Department did not provide an opportunity for a black with acumen and broad experience to consider the appropriateness of this venture. Blacks are prepared and able to discuss and participate in a wide range of socio - economic, political and geopolitical issues other than athletics.

2. Black leaders are often viewed in the ethos of white America as talented or able in regard to a very narrow or limited focus. In this conjunction, in spite of Muhammad Ali's extraordinary" attainments as a boxer, it is commonly known, as is indicative of most people, black and white, that international diplomacy is not his forte.

The resultant failure, regrettably, is not viewed as Ali's failure as an individual, but the failure of 30 million black people. However, the failure of a Clark Clifford would have been viewed as the failure of Clifford and not 175 million white Americans. This to be sure, is a classic example of institutional racism which is alive and well in our body politic.

The identification of and placement of ill - prepared or shoddily informed blacks by the white majority is one of the most pernicious forms of institutional racism which is as courant in the United States today. The **overarching and cardinal aim of such an effort is programmed failure for black people.**

Locally, as well as across the nation, one sees it in terms of the invisibility of blacks in media programming, radio and television, which focuses on substantive and pertinent issues (viz., economic development, unemployment, underemployment, demographic movement, urban and regional planning, decent housing, health care, education, etc.) impinging on the total community.

Except for public commentaries, immediate crises and/or special days (i.e., Black History Month, AFRAM, etc.) black Baltimoreans are largely "blacked out" insofar as the local and national media are concerned.

The crude, unseemly and racist comments of Rep. Clarence Long at a recent meeting of the Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP in Woodlawn, most decidedly fall within this genre. Long's comments, represented a towering reversal of Arthur Jensen mythology (i.e., white genetic superiority) in alleging that blacks were exemplary in athletics and superior to whites "because Southern white blood flows in every black today."

The gauche, and demeaning and mythological views of both Arthur Jensen and Clarence Long can be responded to in one word, **Balderdash.** Long in his unthinking and obtuse remarks, I believe, has performed a timely and needed service in jolting black middle and upper income citizens as regards the continuing nature of the struggle for freedom, human dignity and economic sufficiency. **We still don't "have it made."**

The Ali African debacle, precipitated and orchestrated by President Carter and the U.S. Department of State, constitutes a painful reminder for 450,000 black Baltimoreans and 30 million blacks across the nation that we must insist upon being our own advocates.

The supreme lesson for all of us is that socio - economic and political parity will not become a reality, in our time, unless we dare, within the framework of our political system, to demand it through the power of the franchise.

Dr. Leslie King Hammond

Mirror, mirror on the wall

By Dr. L. King Hammond

There are several current exhibitions honoring Black History Month which use diverse perspectives to reflect upon the history and culture of blacks in America.

In 1926 Carter G. Woodson, a great historian and educator, established a week in February to focus on the achievements of black contributions in the United States. This week of celebration was extended to the entire month of February in the 1970s as the interest, importance and significance of this month grew.

The most critical show on display is an exhibition entitled "The African Image — Representations of the black throughout History" which opened Feb. 17 at the Walters Art Gallery.

First observations might indicate this world famous art collection is finally taking a responsive step towards presenting shows which have some appeal or impact upon the community in which they are located.

At its best this show is the design and the domain of a small and limited audience and falls far from the initial intent of "honoring" Black History Month. In fact, this is a typical example of scholarly overkill.

It took six curators to hand select what can only be described as some excellent examples of fine art which happened to visually include some reference to black subject matter.

There is an almost casual attitude concerning the historical reasons and significance for the black presence in America. Woodson established Black History Month to counter the stereotypical images which have hung on since slavery.

This special month of emphasis was designed to use a more positive approach to the contributions of a people still ignored. Thus the Walters show is dated and problematic in its approach and intent.

Granted the chosen examples are quite exquisite in their technical execution but then only a small audience would appreciate this aspect. Why then did not at least one of these six curators consult one of the numerous, esteemed black scholars in this city to ascertain the most appropriate means of interpretation?

The second major disturbing factor of this show is the inclusion of a small exhibition of the photographic works by John Clarke Mayden. What do these works have to do with the rest of the exhibition which is designed along a historical format? At its worst this type of presentation does a serious injustice to the works and visual statements of a very talented and creditable young black artist.

It would appear that Mayden's work has been included as an afterthought. The inclusion of his work is totally inconsistent with the design and intent of the show. This is a serious contradiction for an institution such as the Walters Art Gallery.

John Clarke Mayden is a remarkable photographer in terms of his skill, vision and achievements. This exhibition puts him and his work in an awkward and unfair position as it is totally out of context with the rest of the exhibition. Mayden deserves better attention to message of his visual statements and not just an empty opportunity to have his work at a museum of this caliber without benefit of serious attention and evaluation.

It is most ironic that in the past year the Walters has become a "teaching museum." Grants from the National Endowment of the Arts have allowed them to develop and present programs and activities which are designed to draw the community into the museum.

This exhibition smacks of paternalism — the very foot which keeps racist thoughts and practices alive and well. How can an institution teach when it has failed to learn so little in this most critical area.

The Walters Art Gallery is open every day of the week and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights for lectures. Further information on this show can be obtained by calling the museum. The gallery is located at Charles and Cathedral Sts. at Centre. The show will continue until March 30.

The University of Maryland at Baltimore County has installed an exhibition of 10 Pan - African artists. The show is entitled "Voices Beyond the Veil" and includes paintings, prints, sculpture and ceramics. It is refreshing shift from the Walters show. Even though this is a group show, the emphasis is much more direct and in keeping with the goals of Black History month.

Each of the artists is of African ancestry but living in different parts of the Western world. They each bring their own personal visions which blend to make a more consistent statement about the concerns or intentions of the Pan - African artist.

The artists showing include Pedro Alcantara (South America), Carole Byard (New Jersey), Valerie Maynard (New York), Winnie Owens (Washington, D.C.), Skinner Boghossian (Ethiopia), Leroy Clarke (Philadelphia), Malkia Roberts (Washington, D.C.), Ed Love (Los Angeles), Simon Gouverneur (South America), and Elizabeth Catlett Mora (Mexico).

The show is hung in the Library Gallery of UMBC located on Wilkens Avenue. The gallery is open daily and the show will be on display until March 16.

Dr. Hammond is dean of graduate studies, Maryland Institute, College of Art.

Postal union chief thanks the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees Local 202 would like to thank you for running the article in your paper concerning the disappearance of one of our dedicated members, Mr. Walter W. Cook. Your paper has been the only one to run an article about this disappearance.

Both the alliance and Mr. Cook's family want to thank you, and it is hoped that until this case has been solved that you will continue to provide some sort of article to help gather information that might give the family some relief.

Again, let me thank you.

CLIFTON HARRIS,
President Local 202,
NAPFE

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.

MORE LETTERS

Reader disagrees with AFRO columnist

Dear AFRO:

I am a regular AFRO reader and after reading Samuel Banks' column on "Bringing Back the Draft," I say that Mr. Banks' article, in my opinion is disgusting and appalling.

What makes Mr. Banks think that all blacks are so much ready, so much gung-ho about fighting capitalism's racist and repressive wars-overseas?

He says that there is no anti-war sentiment on the part of black people, it is all on white "cowards" on college campuses. I find your article very damaging to the relationship in the working class, black and white, which is already divided due to the rampant racism here at home, with the KKK and the Nazi Party running wild.

He says that there are no blacks hostile to the draft revival, yet Rep. Parren J. Mitchell explained on television to some college students the dangers of draft revival, noting that the recent hawks were saying, "We're finally coming back into power again."

He also said recently he found it kind of sad we were right back in the same place after 10 years, rattling sabers and threatening young peoples' lives!

Rep. Mitchell is one man who will stand up and speak against the racist and capitalist politicians — for the right of all black people in this country.

It's really sad how we find so many of our black spokesmen and figureheads with passive attitudes, the same passiveness that nearly killed all of our rights in the '70s.

Doesn't Mr. Banks know that the ones that called for a draft revival are the same capitalist politicians who fought to their last breath in the '60s, against civil rights for blacks and today make phony excuses for giving the Klan and Nazis the green light?

Blacks in this country will never accept a draft that will use hundreds of poor working class blacks and whites alike as cannon fodder to help keep down the countries struggling on their last breath of life for liberation from U.S. capitalism and imperialism.

I do agree, however, that there is a need for good jobs for blacks and all working class citizens. I do agree that there have been more black deaths in war when compared with white casualties. But I don't agree in a draft that takes up the poor and working class for wars when rich kids like Jack Ford and Caroline Kennedy don't have to ever go.

If Amy Carter were of draft age, would she go?

When you are drafted and sent off to war, you aren't fighting for your mother, father or neighbor, your church, apple pie, Cracker Jack or the flag. You are fighting for profit-gulping corporations like Exxon, Mobil, Martin Marietta, Getty Oil, etc. to keep them rich and wealthy.

I feel like hundreds and thousands of other black people that this country doesn't stand for anything I would go out and die for.

Furthermore, our war, as blacks, starts here at home, registering to fight the wars against the Klan, unemployment, racism, sexism, and worse of all, capitalism, which keeps our people ignorant of their basic rights, making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Jobs at home, not wars abroad. No draft—no way— hell, no—I won't go.

LEE PATTERSON