Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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New political thrust?

Analysts have scarcely begun to sort out the results of last week's presidential election and already in Baltimore an interesting assortment of citizens is gearing up for the 1983 mayoralty and other city-wide political contests.

A group of representative citizens has been invited to a dinner by an organization named, or ceremonyned COPE (Committee for Political Education) which states in its letter of invitation, that it will forthwith be making public a strategy for seeing that more black officials are elected to office than has been this city's lamentable past history.

This augurs all to our community good.

Obviously COPE has been planning the battle of 1983 for sometime now and under its umbrella are included most current black elected officials and other notables.

We have long argued that the time is almost past due if black Baltimore is to seize its rightful majority on the City Council, not to mention control of the mayor's office and other elective centers of power in this city.

By beginning now COPE is certainly not wasting any time in laying out the political priorities we must face if we are to prevail in 1983.

We find the composition of COPE's steering committee, the key movers and doers, particularly fascinating including as it does local leaders ranging from the fiery activist Bobby Cheeks, to key Schaefer aide Lenwood Ivey.

Indeed a broad spectrum!

Cost of the affair at which COPE will unveil its formula for 1983, according to literature accompanying the invitations, is being underwritten by such powerful groups as the Delta sorority, the Kappas, Alphas, the Monumental Bar Association, again a diverse coalition.

We gather also that Samuel Daniels, the Masonic leader and czar of local economic development, is also lending his considerable weight and resources to the COPE effort.

This is a most interesting political development and COPE's aims and program certainly deserve the widest possible audience.

It is greatly reassuring that even as the Ronald Reagan era is descending on Washington, Baltimore black political leadership is moving toward strong new thrusts for power for our community.

We find this development extremely exciting.

United Way over the top

Clerics are fond of reminding us at collection plate time that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

Baltimoreans, then, must surely task in His radiance.

We note this because once again the United Way Campaign of Central Maryland has exceeded its fund-raising efforts, and not only that, it has topped the final dollar figures of its 1979 campaign.

United Way, this year, has raised $20,337,960, a million more dollars than last year's contributions.

United Way funds are dispersed to a myriad of helping agencies in our area and the generosity of Baltimoreans in giving money to these and member organizations is amazing, giving the inflationary times in which we live.

Congratulations to Hank Butta, who chaired the 1980n United Way campaign, and hearty thanks to the thousands of Central Marylanders who gave.

Urban madness

At AFRO prestime, we are pleased to note, a police spokesman told us with a certain sign of relief that "things are pretty quiet."

That is always good news.

Our town has been given plenty of bad raps about its crime rate, which admittedly is often distressing, after hearing the police spokesman's good words.

We studied one edition of one New York City newspaper yesterday and if you think we have our share of problems let us report to you just a little bit of what went on in Gotham during the last 12 hours.

Most shocking was news that a young black man went on a rampage near Bellevue Hospital. He walked up to five perfect strangers within two blocks, stabbed all of them viciously, leaving one woman dead three seriously wounded and one man barely clinging to life.

He escaped without a trace.

Less violent but just as horrific another Manhattan news story was of the TV producer who operated a sex-for-sale ring of international call girls. He will be allowed back in the U.S. after fleeing 20 years ago.

He will not stand trial for pandering or flight to avoid prosecution.

The reason? He has a little black book of high government officials, business executives and international personalities, most of whom are still alive, and even more important now than they were two decades ago.

In plea bargaining, he will not release the names of all the bigshots who purchased the charms of the prostitutes he boxed.

The authorities, probably fearing countless international scandals if he spills the beans, are letting him off the hook. Does blackmail pay?

More horror: a 20-year-old Bronx man was arrested yesterday after murdering a 14-year-old school girl and hiding her body under his parents bed.

On the lighter side: three men in Queens were driving along when they spotted what they thought was a big dog.

The big dog turned out to be a lion. They called the cops and the cops thought they were drunk.

It took quite a spell before these New Yorkers could convince the bluecoats that a 'sure enough' lion was wandering the streets of the nation's biggest city.

That was just a pittance of what went on in New York City yesterday.

Urban madness is everywhere, it seems.

Even in the suburbs, Baltimore County reports its crime rate is soaring!

So when Baltimore city police say things are quiet give a silent cheer as we do and keep our fingers crossed. Each quiet day here means a better day for everyone here.

YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Bad manners

By Marion M. Banfield

Last time I complained about the public display of bad manners when a little defenseless child is hit, pushed or loudly scolded.

One then asks why the adult or older child has such crude manners. There are several possibilities, such as:

1. The mother may be a teenager too young to calmly cope with the pressures of parenthood.
2. Worrying about meeting financial pressures might make the usually good mothering just collapse for a few minutes because of some behavior by the child.
3. "Slapping children up side the head" may be a crude family or neighborhood habit. That habit needs to change!
4. More understandably, the hit may be a release of anger or fear because of the child's brief disappearance or dangerous actions.

Families can observe and evaluate how young children are treated. A child who is treated with respect will be more able to respect others.

We'll be right back, Kweisi

MADELINE MURPHY

Vigilance and organization

Before the political campaigns heated up across the land during the summer, two separate incidents in south Baltimore pointed up our need to be more vigilant about a great danger.

A black van cruised the Westport homes neighborhood and sprayed the bedroom of a young black girl with bullets. She was terrified and could not sleep in that room for months after. Later a young white man was apprehended but nothing more was heard about him.

Also in Cherry Hill a similar incident occurred.

Now we see what has happened and is still going on in Buffalo where six black men have been systematically murdered—a seventh was almost strangled in his hospital bed; in Atlanta, 10 black children have been murdered and four more are missing.

A bomb was planted in a black church in Birmingham, Alabama, and there were claims across the country that nine more black men have been murdered under mysterious circumstances.

It is too soon to speculate about the corpse of a 13 year old black girl who was found hanging from a chain link fence in Baltimore County on Route 70, this past week.

But a pattern is forming, while the white press and television media remain all too silent in their editorials and "human rights" pronouncements.

Even in the campaign only once did Jimmy Carter make mention of the Atlanta tragedies, while Ronald Reagan and he both courted the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party.

The white backlash in the election should send a message to us that we are far from safe even in our own neighborhoods. Because always when there is economic hardship there is also an escalation of scapegoating, putting the blame upon others who are victimized. When there is not enough to go around, the weakest ones in the tribe are killed off!

It is as if they are saying: "If it hadn't been for the Haitians, for the Cubans, for the blacks, things wouldn't be so bad."

Coupled with that is the disgrace in public schools where children don't even have text books and so the idea that blacks just can't compete, can't learn, is really a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Equally guilty of this mindset are some of our own people and those others who are also on the precipice of being victims of race hate, for the KKK is not only anti-black, it is anti-semitic and anti-Catholic.

It rides under the same banner that the Moral Majority, the New Evangelical Right, the John Birch Society ride under—purity of race and racial superiority. Shades of Adolph Hitler!

The recent controversy in Israel, in regard to the black Hebrews, follows the same line, that somehow because they have taken on Judaism, there is something not only phony about them, but also sinister. What about Sammy Davis Jr?

Not to belabor the point however, was also the campaign against Billy Murphy in the white press that dubbed him racist, when he was only aspiring to gain what every ethic group takes for granted.

Yet that same paper was silent about the aforementioned reign of terror that escalates unscathed at home and in other states because it does not receive public exposure and condemnation. It would seem that there is a cynical conspiracy here.

Black people therefore have a problem, for on the one hand we are economically dependent and squeezed out of jobs, food, clothing and shelter, and on the other hand we are being terrorized by hate groups with the sanction of those who are here to serve and protect us.

Friends who attended the Western Maryland Klan rally and indoctrination this fall report that the movement is growing by leaps and bounds. The blatant racism goes unchecked. The Christian umbrella under which it hides distorts the very foundation and principles on which this country was founded.

While the hypocrisy of those in the powerful white media conclave there is also another dissident group of young middle class whites who have taken on the mantle of anarchy, whose supposed leader is Frank Rock—both violent and nihilistic.

These young malcontents are fertile ground for the terrorist groups. These apolitical, pleasure loving young people present a further danger in the growth of the movement for racial superiority.

But this also is fertile ground for us to begin to coalesce, to develop strong memberships in already existing movements. We must struggle together to stop this wave of terror.

More about this in forthcoming articles.

Another autumnal equinox

"I can tell by your coat
My friend you're from the other side.
Just one thing I've got to know
Could you tell me please.
Who won?"

(Gold Hill Music, Inc. 1969)

By Marc L. Randolph

Those lyrics, originally penned by Stephen Stills, always fascinated me. They are universal and timeless. It could be any contest (war, election, etc.) anywhere on the globe. The leitmotif is losers — the ones who were led with promises of brighter days, patriotic glory, or other dubious calls to duty, then abandoned and shunted aside so as not to embarrass anyone.

But, (as Joan Baez earlier wrote) "Farewell, Angelina. The sky is embarrassed and I must be gone."

It's history now. We all know how Ronald Reagan symbolically linked together an alienated collection of single-issue groups, hammered away at some ethereal image called Jimmy Carter's economic policies, and kept his mouth shut often enough to "win" the election.

But, at 16th & W Streets in N.W., Washington, nothing about the election was noted and one would hope that even a Reagan presidency could not make things worse for these folks. The immediacy of their problem is frightening.

Less obvious in their dilemma are those predominantly white voters who now have at their helm a conservative of the first order. Certainly, there is the chance that Reagan will assemble a seasoned staff of economists and political operatives and together with a little luck may be able to put a transitional fiscal policy into effect that will ease the burden on all taxpayers, reduce unemployment somewhat (alas, as a result of increased defense expenditures) and give some glimmer of hope to those on the street.

However, within the next four years, it is much more likely that those same voters, who thoroughly oppose welfare, food stamps, etc. and rally to the cry of "free enterprise," will find themselves in dire need of support, both materially and psychologically.

Most of them simply do not understand how much it "costs" the common man to be a conservative during times of economic retrenchment. Even the so-called bourgeois, those with a professional practice or small business, are likely to have a good deal of available capital in corporate stocks. To that degree they are in the breach.

Paradoxically, the condition of their power is their powerlessness. Unfortunately, the clearer this perception becomes the more reactionary their politics become. Whatever the cost, the middle-class citizens will do whatever is necessary not to become like them — those losers.

As usual "the right" (in this case and country, the Republicans) has thrown down the gauntlet. Political problems will now be attacked as moral problems with all the religious (i.e. righteous) ferocity inherent in that denomination of man which requires orders and classes and considers any attempt at economic levelling, not as a torch of progress, but as a devouring conflagration to be extinguished at the earliest practical moment.

These are men of the resolute persuasion that property and freedom are inseparable. And make no mistake about it, the general appetite for durable private possessions never was greater in this country than it is today and this craving will vanquish mushy liberals and their yearnfuliness.

The slim hope is that "the left" and other moderates can submerge their primacy-of-issue squabbles and get on with the urgent business of creating and maintaining a society in which all distinct components feel part of a whole. A whole in which they and their beliefs are genuinely represented and throughout which they actually receive their fair share of available resources.

If this means the construction of a third political party, so be it. It may be argued that a complete refurbishing of the Democratic party would be wiser in order to provide sanctuary in 1984 for that vast number of Reagan supporters, who will by then, most likely be in a total state of shock. Whatever.

The point is there must be a workable alternative. Certainly, Mr. Reagan is a one term transition mechanism for the right. But who is willing to say for sure that the "progressive" Republicans can keep order. Unless one believes in magic, the general economy can only get tougher and tighter.

At that point, with all the excuses of OPEC prices, Carter's fumbling, etc. used up, the only trump card becomes the one with which "the right" is all too comfortable — scapegoating. What group within the American electorate would care to make the ultimate wager it won't be them.

"... during winter storms
It will be the taller stalks
Leaning above the snow
That will catch your eye.

...don't be surprised
When as you grow older
You begin to pray more . . .
And be most thankful,
If in autumn you can still manage
a smile."

(Gordon Parks, TO SMILE IN AUTUMN; 1979. W. W. Norton & Co., New York & London)

PARREN MITCHELL

Election Night — A Challenge

"Well, its best for us to pack our bags and get out of the country," one lady said as she learned about Reagan's election.

There is nothing left for us to do except dig a hole and cover ourselves over," said another, "Black people are finished." A third comment I heard was, "We will just have to mark time for the next four years and then resume our struggle."

What kind of nonsense is this? When did we black people become defeatist? Is Reagan some kind of superman or is he not just another man who has won elective office.

I am not about to roll over and play dead. We had to take on hostile administrations in the past and we shall do just that again! We have come too far to be turned around.

No matter how hard I try, I cannot help but see this past presidential election in the light of racism. Was the overwhelming white voter support for Reagan a way of saying to us, "Okay, you elected President Carter, Black folks, but we will show you that we still retain the political power in this country?"

Does "getting the government off the backs of the people" mean that the government should not implement affirmative action programs in employment, housing and minority business?

Does it return to the past mean a return to a past in which black citizens were consistently and systematically denied equal opportunity? These questions haunt my mind primarily because during the Reagan campaign there was a looming absence of statements on civil rights, civil liberties, and the plight of black Americans.

Reagan's election has jolted us. The loss of many of our staunch friends in the U.S. Senate has hurt us and a more conservative U.S. House of Representatives does not augur well for our future.

Yet, this, in my opinion, is the precise moment in history when blacks should regroup and renew, I emphasize renew, our offensive strategy in the struggle to achieve full equality.

Black Americans must be in the vanguard exposing the moral majority for what it is and dismantling this pernicious political movement which, if unchecked, can destroy democracy itself.

Now is the time for black America to provide the leadership in publicly dissecting the new conservatism revealing it for what it is, namely, an arrangement under which those who presently possess great wealth and power. Now is the exact time in history when we must rigidly prioritize our demands, consolidate our forces so that we speak as one body and utilize our resources, both political and economic so that we act as one body.

If we do these things, we shall not be crushed into silent submission by any Administration. We have allies, we have friends.

Americans cannot afford to ignore its black population knowing that the court of world opinion is increasingly influenced by the third world nations.

America cannot submit to the demands of the moral majority just to hurt us because the moral majority is just as great a danger to the vast majority of whites as it is to blacks.

Be of courage black Americans! Be strong in our faith. The race is not to the swift and the mighty, but to he who endureth to the end. We shall endure in our struggle, and, therefore, we shall win.

Alphas half way in $1 million drive

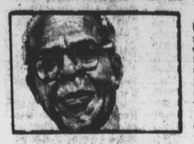
NEW YORK — The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the nation's oldest and largest black Greek letter organization, has reached the halfway mark in its drive to raise $1 million to be divided equally among the NAACP, National Urban League and the United Negro College Fund.

James H. Williams, the Alpha's national president, and Dr. Isaiahna J. Lemoine, national chairman of the drive, made the announcement in a joint press conference with Vernon E. Jordan Jr., president of the NUL, Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, and Christopher F. Edley, executive director of the UNCF.

The total dollar amount raised by the Alphas is $500,000 and total pledges are $1,000,000, according to the Alpha spokesman.

With a current active membership of about 10,000 and with some 600 chapters in the U.S. and several foreign countries, Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in 1906 by seven young black men at Cornell University.

G. JAMES FLEMING



Postscript on Reagan victory

After every election, some people are over-joyed and some are saddened, depressed or stark mad. After every election some people benefit and some lose benefits. Under some political regimes some are fearful of their status or their very lives after elections.

The Reagan victory on Election Day is no different. Only the numbers on the side or the other may (or will) differ.

The record reminds us that not all Americans supported, admired or loved President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, although he was a hero to other millions throughout the country and in many parts of the world. Some "very solid" citizens accused him of committing "treason to his class."

Popular John F. Kennedy was an international favorite and in many parts of the third world still is, but he too had large pockets on the other side and, indeed, was barely able to squeeze through in the popular election 20 years ago.

President Woodrow Wilson is still considered one of the brightest minds to win the White House; his intellectual and executive achievements before his election were stupendous and magnificent.

But, to blacks, he was a disaster. Thousands of blacks in the U.S. Civil Service lost their jobs, because of their race, in less than a year after his ascendancy, and government restrooms were labeled "White" and "colored," to mention a most abbreviated list of Woodrow Wilson memories.

On the other hand, there have been known pogroms-makers who shed their earlier cleaks of racism once they achieved high office, as this column has pointed out more than once. Such a person was Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, formerly a card-carrying member of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan and, rightfully, vigorously opposed by the NAACP when he was nominated for the nation's highest court.

Such a person, also, was President Lyndon B. Johnson, revered by civil rights groups, but who voted as a strict segregationist while a Congressman, until 1957.

All these reflections mean, then tar, is that while numbers of blacks and other Americans have real fears over the election of Ronald Reagan (as some had in the late seventies over Georgian Jimmy Carter), miracles do occur; people do change, depending on a myriad of circumstances.

This goes for the man, Reagan, now president of the United States and, hopefully, of all its peoples (A black college roommate and friend of Ronald Reagan, now residing in Maryland, has no fears of the Reagan he knows).

We cannot take the same "wait and see" attitude about the organized supporters of the president-elect, however. This coalition, with several corporate names but lumped as "the Moral Majority," is frightening with its threats, its computers, and its capacity to raise money.

This ultra-conservative, anti-liberal, anti-masses combination is out for blood—even more blood than it has already drawn with its overthrow of several key liberal and moderate Congressmen. Its spokesmen have unashamedly issued threats against the President. . . . If he does not follow their line, once he becomes Chief Executive.

To a greater extent than we believe even Mr. Reagan understands, he may be accoutered by this "born-again" set of operators who have sized upon the rightward swing of the American "raves" against the "havenots."

Theoretically for the time being, the election of Reagan (to a lesser extent, no less) brings a new alignment of black national leaders who may be able, once in a while, to get the ear of the president.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy and Hosea L. Williams, close followers of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., won out on what was perhaps only a political hunch.

The same for James Charles Evers, mayor of Fayette, Miss. They, especially Abernathy and Williams, must have felt they could not lose personally and might win. They read their visceral polls better than Mrs. Coretta King and Mayor Maynard Jackson of Atlanta and many others.

Longtime Republicans, such as former Senator Edward Brooke of New York (a lawyer)—all outspoken for Reagan, will also be competing for recognition. (Incidentally, the history books should note that four years ago, Senator Brooke predicted that Carter would be a one-term President).

More important than the few who may benefit, is the next move for black Americans. Long-term strategy must wait, but one thing is clear: money and organization can put blacks and other civil rights proponents in a position to meet and match the new call to arms.

So far as blacks are concerned, it is also clear that more unity must be promoted — to the point of evangelism — on all levels and in all aspects of black life and among blacks-serving and blacks-advancing organizations and institutions. UNITY, backed by computers, money and BRAINS!

Interpreting black culture

Funds for black museums?

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

Recent turn of events in the political arena will demand greater energy and efforts on the part of blacks especially to maintain our visibility and insure our survival. One of the most difficult battles to be waged will be in the area of art and culture.

It has been almost two years since Rep. Shirley Chisholm launched an investigation into the amount of grants received by minorities from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

At that time, it was revealed that of the 2043 million collective budgets from 1970-1979 of both Endowments, less than three percent of these monies were awarded to black groups or individuals.

Things have not changed to any real degree. In an effort to address the problems more directly the National Endowment for the Humanities is sponsoring a major conference on black museums in Chicago, Illinois, November 20-23, 1980 at the Hyde Park Hilton Hotel.

The theme of the conference will be "A National Conference on Black Museums: Interpreting the Humanities".

More specifically, this conference will present over 22 sessions dealing with various aspects of African-American culture and history from the black perspective. The participants will seek to give a humanistic framework and continuity to each of the chosen topics.

Leading black scholars, experts and specialists from all over the United States have been invited to interact on panels covering issues such as "Archaeology as a means of Discovering the Black Past", "Collecting and Interpreting Black Art and Artifacts," "Interpreting Black Heritage through Film, Photography, The Oral Tradition, The Performing and Visual Arts" as well as "The Role of Museums in Third World Cultures".

This conference will probably become one of the single most important events of the 1980s given the tone of the coming administration.

There are over 96 black museums, archives, historical societies and-or projects in the United States, not to mention the numerous black galleries and participating exhibition sites.

It is expected that this conference will be a major teaching tool and learning resource for the hundreds of individuals who have registered to attend this unique event.

It is hoped that not only will the quality of the exhibitions improve but that grant applications will become more competitive and thus, fundable.

The greater irony of this conference is that many of the leading scholars presenting papers have been refused grants, leaving the Humanities Endowment with the larger profound question of why they were denied funding.

The major motivating force behind this venture can be credited to two individuals—Dr. Batye Thomas, director of the Bethune Historical Development Project (of the National Council of Negro Women) and Dr. Shirley Sun, an Asian-American, who holds the position of deputy director of the division of Public Programs, at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Humanities Endowment has traditionally had an extremely poor track record in the number of grants to minorities as compared with the National Endowment for the Arts. Collectively, neither arm of the Endowment has anything to be proud of at this point.

The conference will be hosted by the DuSable Museum, one of the oldest and most established black museums in the United States.

The African-American Museums Association, roughly two years in existence, and in cooperation with the Bethune Historical Development Project are the two major support groups to this project.

In a time when inflation has escalated the prices of even conference fees, this conference should go down in history as the most affordable.

While fees today range anywhere from $50-$200 for a weekend of varied sessions, the National Endowment has set an initial registration fee of 15 dollars.

Anyone seeking more information can contact: The Bethune Historical Development Project, 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20005, or call area code 202-332-8092.

LETTERS:

Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of this newspaper.

The Reagan presidency

Dear AFRO:

The Reagan presidency can help Afro-Americans. If that presidency induces Afro-Americans to unite toward solidarity; if it induces them to look inward rather than outward in search of their own ethnic resources and strengths; if it strengthens Afro-American organizations—from the Elks and Masons to the NAACP and the Urban League — in their responses to the immediate needs of Afro-Americans, the Reagan presidency will be the best thing that has happened for Afro-Americans since Earl Warren.

The message to Afro-Americans from those who elected Ronald Reagan is quite clear: "Depend less on others and God and more on your own ethnic strengths." First, however, Afro-Americans must themselves (without the aid of intrusion of others) identify their common Afro-American ethnic strength.

The immigrant Irish found their ethnic strength in American politics (as with second generation Americans of Reagan). The immigrant Jews and Asiatics found their strengths first in American commerce. The immigrant Eastern Europeans found their ethnic strengths through American unionization.

If jazz and sports are the ethnic strengths of Afro-Americans, than they must capitalize and exploit these two strengths in their own economic, educational, cultural advantages. So, while we must guarantee careers for the jazz artists (and to the same extent careers are guaranteed for symphonic musicians), we must use the proceeds from the capitalization of jazz to advance and support the survival causes of all Afro-Americans.

While we will commit ourselves to producing more functionally literate Afro-American athletes, we must likewise guarantee that the capitalization on their feats benefits the masses of Afro-Americans.

Above all, we must control the dynamics of jazz and sports as Afro-American ethnic institutions. Only when these ethnic efforts for self-sufficiency are repressed by the fascism and racism expected to come out of Reaganism, only then should Afro-Americans be concerned about what happens in the White House.

Finally, the Reagan presidency spells an end to tolerance for ego-tripping, narcissitic, middle class Afro-Americanism. Able Afro-Americans must lead their people, without the aid of others.

CHARLES DRAKE-LONG

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

SORORITIES and fraternal organizations are in the news this time. They're doing outstanding things as you shall see.

Certainly a spectacular event was the gala Nov. 1, Emerald Ball at the Andrews Air Force Officers Club given by the ladies of Iota Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

OVER 400 GUESTS, Greeks and political community leaders were present for the most fabulous of all evenings and to mark Iota Gamma Omega's 10th Anniversary of service to Prince George's County and the broader community and witness the $1,000 scholarships.

One highlight was the recognition of the "Emeralds of the Year," the honoring of the active Charter members of Iota Gamma Omega: Ertie Barnes, Erma Barron, Hazel Carter, Theatrice Davis, Charlotte Denson, Barbara Seaforth, Mary Thompson (basileus), Susan Trent, and Sarah Wooten.

THE EMERALD BALL was also a fund-raiser for the chapter's 1980-81 political activities, contributions to the National Urban League, the National Council of Negro Women, the United Negro College Fund, and the NAACP programs for the senior citizens, young teen program, contributions to the needy, reading and test-taking workshops, and scholarship fund.

Appropriately, Mrs. Lydia Anderson was present to receive a $300 contribution to the Monica Anderson Fund— a nine-year-old resident of Prince George's County who has a rare genetic bone disorder which necessitates 24-hour care and life supports.

Also, Ms. Susan Yvonne Johnson, a resident of Mitchelville, Md. and a student at Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga., and Ms. Theresa AlAbiton, a resident of Landover, Md. and a student at the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore, were each recipients of a $1,000 merit scholarship.

Nor did the ladies of Iota Gamma Omega fail to use the commemorative occasion to reinforce the need for black political consciousness and individual and group commitments in getting out the vote for the Nov. 4 elections.

Although a festive occasion, Iota Gamma Omega's Emerald Ball served well as the chapter's rededication to the principles and ideals of AKA: Service to All Mankind.

MRS. MARY THOMPSON is basileus.

DR. WILLIAM E.H. HOWARD, professor of political science - public management at Florida A and M University in Tallahassee is currently on Sabbatical pursuing research at the Library of Congress in Washington and the United Nations in New York.

BALTIMORE is his pivotal point while he is in the East and he is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Sherrard (Camilla).

Later Dr. Howard will visit London and Paris in interest of his research project.

OCT. 28 was the 40th Founders Day Observance and Luncheon of Chi Eta Phi, Gamma Chapter.

The event at the Convention Center witnessed coveted awards going to Dr. Samuel Banks, the Service to Humanity Award; Rev. Dr. Wendell Phillips, the Community Service Award and Dr. Rosetta Sands, RN, the Professional Leadership in Nursing Award.

DYNAMIC SPEAKER was Mrs. Cecelia Bryant, wife of Dr. John Bryant, the Bethel AME pastor.

Rev. Mrs. Reba Brown Pearl, RN was chairman with Mrs. Geneva Bowser cochairman. Mrs. Earline Ford is advisor; Mrs. Lelia Da'nge, basileus.

CHI ETA PHI is an organization of registered nurses and student nurses. Founded in 1932, the Alpha Chapter was organized at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington. Supreme basileus is Mrs. Peola McCaskill.

GAMMA CHAPTER in Baltimore set a record when at the nation's Bicentennial Celebration it gave recognition to 26 black nurses who had contributed service to humanity in an outstanding manner, nursing, social and civic endeavors.

In August, 1973, Chi Eta Phi, in cooperation with the American Nurses Ass'n., restored the gravesite of Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first known black graduate nurse.

GAMMA CHAPTER annually sponsors a nursing student through a scholarship and plays Santa for the residents at the W. M. Carroll Home for the Aged as well as special projects for the Maryland Branch NAACP.

FOUNDERS DAY honorees receiving presentations from Soror Delzora Johnson were lauded thus:

Dr. Banks for accomplishments as civic leader and director of the social studies department of the Baltimore schools;

Mrs. Sands for accomplishments in her role as nurse, teacher and community leader;

Rev. Dr. Phillips as member of the Maryland House of Delegates and pastor of Heritage United Methodist Church.

THE SOROR of the Year Award went to Dr. Loretta H. Richardson, executive director of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Nurses.

Dr. Richardson was keynote speaker for the opening session of Chi Eta Phi Sorority at the 1980 Basic in New York City and the 1980 National Convention of the Licensed Practical Nurses Ass'n.

HERE IS an unusual story, one about John Vernon Thornton who is special education teacher at the Briscoe Senior High, past worshipful grand master and 33rd degree Mason and president general of the Grand Masonic Congress of Grand Masters, State of Maryland.

All this came out at the Hunt Valley Inn banquet the Mt. Zion Lodge No. 30 AF- and-AM gave recently in his honor.

Present were members of the local lodge and Thornton's family as well as grand masters and members from Illinois, New York, Virginia and cities of the Eastern Seaboard.

HERE IS JOHN V. THORNTON:

Thornton, is a product of the Waverly section of Baltimore or as he affectionately refers to it, "God's Little Acres."

As a child he received religious training in Ebenezer Baptist Church, where his mother, Mrs. Ella Mae Thornton, has been a member over 60 years.

He fondly reminisces about his childhood and the Easter, Christmas and Children's Day programs where everyone spent many hours practicing their parts for the various "special day" activities under the strict guidance of the late George H. Carter, superintendent of Sunday school.

WHILE IN in the Army, Vernon saw action in Korea where he received a "Meritorious Citation" for action in combat.

Following honorable discharge in 1952, he obtained his GED and continued education first at the Community College of Baltimore and later at Coppin and Morgan.

Prior to military service he was employed at Social Security where he met and married Shirley M. Fowlkes. They have a daughter Jewelle Vanessa, a senior at Howard University in Washington.

After military discharge he returned to SSA for a short time.

Upon leaving SSA he opened a hardware store at 2702 W. North Avenue.

He left the hardware business in 1968 and currently teaches in special education at the Joseph C. Briscoe Senior High where last year his unique talent caused him to be honored by the faculty and students as "Father of the Year."

FOR ALL WE KNOW

JUST THINKING

The post election blues—hurts

By Al Sweeney

Langston Hughes, one of the most renowned of the black playwrights, poet-philosophers and authors, captured the Black Experience at its serio-comic best with his series of short stories in a book called "Laughing to Keep from Crying."

Originally, entitled "The Ways of White Folks," he bowed to the wishes of his white publishers and agreed to retitle it for commercial purposes "Laughing to Keep from Crying."

One of the racial traits, the Black Experience reveals, during during a period of travail or seeming hopelessness, the brother has a remarkable habit of using humor as a facade to cover deep hurt.

That is why on Wednesday morning, blacks in government confined to the lower recesses of the bureaucracy, were all smiles as they walked up and down the federal building corridors. The facial countenances of their white bosses, meanwhile were wreathed in frowns.

"Man, they ain't going to wait for the night train to get back to Georgia," one person quipped "they're going to catch the day Greyhound referring to the so-called Georgia Mafia."

Another black person who has been having his troubles obtaining a raise, pointed out there is one thing about the presidential elections:

"When the man in the White House loses, the negative action sweeps all presidential appointees out of their jobs —equally."

All this columnist can advise, especially those persons of color who have served in one of those Schedule C jobs, that come and go with the changing administrations — "Welcome to the club!"

Until you have been part of the Black Experience and have had the privilege (?) to hold one of these supergrade, high-titled posts, you'll never know how it feels to find that you have been standing on quick sand.

Clem McCarthy, the radio announcer who announced the Joe Louis fights during the days before television, observed when Kingfish Levinski, a fighter of dubious merit was kayoed by the devastating punches of Joe Louis early in the first minutes of their bout:

"You'll never know how it feels to be hit by a train until you get hit by a train."

And so it goes in government.

Not only are the blacks, who are serving in the senior executive service, as the Civil Service Reform has renamed the supergrade employees, as appointees vulnerable to change, but the so-called career may be affected.

The career employees may be removed from their present positions and shipped off to the Siberias of the various agencies, if the new administration's managers desire.

The club of former federal executives has grown greatly since the push for blacks in top jobs came into being.

When Eisenhower was replaced by John F. Kennedy after the 1960 election, E. Frederic Morrow, Ike's special White House assistant, moaned: "Do I have to go back into the jungles?"

After landing a federal job in one of the regional offices of Veterans Administration, Morrow became an executive at the Bank of America.

The list of the black executive alumni grew under the Kennedy - Johnson regimes. Many of the blacks, who left government after serving during the New Frontier era, found sledding tough.

They can tell you how it feels when you have to turn in your federal identification card.

Those persons who used to badger you, disappear. The luncheons at the Jockey Club, Pier 7, Kon Tiki, on a "friend's" credit card are over.

Offield Dukes, who was special assistant to Vice - President Humphrey, can describe the feeling best.

He will tell those persons who are about to join the club about the numbness, the feeling of despair and bitterness towards one's fellowman that develops during the period of transition.

The list of former black federal executives serving under the Democratic and Republican administrations is exhaustive.

While most of the ex-managers have had to struggle to survive, there are a few exceptions. Hobart Taylor, for instance, has parlayed his Export — Import Bank experience to a lucrative law practice and he is a member of many corporate boards of the connections that he made while heading LBJ's Fair Employment Practices Committee.

Stan Scott, the newsman and top aide to Presidents Nixon and Ford, is a corporate vice-president with the Serving Philip Morris Corporation.

Two Carter appointees who have no worries are Pat Harris, the Human Services secretary and Cliff Alexander, the Army secretary. They are on leave from prestigious law firms and were making more money before accepting their present jobs and will return to practices that will put them well above the six-figures annually.

But, for many others they are facing rough times. Private industry is retrenching on the minority affairs posts that usually go to former federal executives.

Because of the shift in control of the Senate committees, many of the staff jobs obtained by federal workers are unavailable.

One of the most perceptive or lucky former federal executives is Pat Worthy Clement, who left HUD to become a D.C. Public Service commissioner. It might equally be applied to James Clement, her recently acquired husband, who holds an appointee post with the Small Business Administration (SBA).

If you have been following this space, you might recall that it was indicated, long before the daily pundits confirmed it, that the black vote would be down this year.

In spite of Operation Big Vote, that was largely financed by labor, the percentage of blacks voting this year was less than a year ago. Of great significance, is that the voting apathy was present in areas where there was a substantial electoral vote.

The congressional members of the Black Caucus who will have the greatest impact upon the Reagan administration will be Augustus Hawkins, the California congressman, and, believe it or not, Bill Clay, the Missouri congressman who will head the House Civil Service Committee.

If you're looking for the biggest loser in the recent presidential race, it's Ron Brown, the former National Urban League executive and Ted Kennedy campaign aide.

Ron was due to become general counsel of Senate Judiciary Committee. But, that was before Kennedy lost the committee chairmanship.

Funny, but tragic. But, that's the Black Experience. As Gladys Knight sings "We will survive. Haven't we, though?

NO VO