Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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COPE '83 a splendid beginning

COPE '83, acronymn for the Committee on Political Equality, has marched to center stage of Baltimore's political life with a precision, determination and will to succeed not experienced in these parts since black people rallied to tear down the outward walls of racism here at the turn of the Sixties.

The COPE '83 introductory dinner held Monday night might well mark a political watershed in Maryland's political history.

Some 200 plus members of what must accurately be called Baltimore's black elite came together, heard what the planners of COPE '83 had to say and with an unanimity almost without precedent in our community pledged themselves to work to help COPE accomplish its mission.

The COPE purpose is clear, bold and larger than the interest of any faction within our community.

"To advance the involvement of minorities in the political process within the city of Baltimore and to raise a minimum of $500,000 net within in the next three years; to achieve a broader base of support involvement from the members of the community; and to match the human and financial resources, with equal emphasis on incorporating the human resources as well as the financial resources."

We quote from the Cope '83 statement of purpose because it is both a model of clarity and a particularly challenging document.

Challenging because it asks black elitists to come together, to agree on a pragmatic political course of action that will ensure that blacks, who comprise more than 50 percent of the total population of the city of Baltimore, finally and rightfully assume political control.

And by political control, COPE means, and we mean, blacks holding numerous city-wide offices.

This is the direct challenge COPE has given elitists and we are immensely happy to report that this leadership, the best and the brightest of our business and civic leaders, without dissent has accepted the COPE stimulus.

To win in American politics is to have the money to spend to give viable candidates the kinds of campaign support they need to reach enough voters to win.

COPE's organizers set forth this premise forcefully at the Monday night dinner and our community leadership found the message convincing. By program end, some $70,000 had already been pledged by guests present and that, combined with organizational and institutional commitments practically ensure that the COPE '83 political war chest will be filled.

As the COPE '83 drive begins we think it most important to stress that those present at the kick-off dinner represented almost every point in Baltimore's political spectrum.

Eastsiders, Westsiders, Republicans, Democrats, mavericks, hardball political operators, academics, the whole ball of wax . . . and to a man and woman . . . our knowledge is that all came away pleasantly, yea, dramatically surprised at the amount of thought, high degree of organization and political awareness that had gone into making COPE come alive.

COPE '83 is a powerful mechanism!

It has an excellent chance to reach and exceed its initial objectives.

Baltimore's black elite, as evidenced by its receptivity Monday night, is ready to not only join unto itself but to reach out to the total community and finally take the lead in putting capable black leadership into the highest elective offices, boards, commissions, agencies which constitute the government o. Baltimore and surrounds.

Most importantly our community leadership is ready to put its financial resources into this escalating political committment.

The AFRO commends all who have helped create this important new political instrument and we emphatically support and encourage the stated objectives of COPE '83.

We have long urged that black men and women take control of the destiny of Baltimore no matter what costs and risks may be involved.

Only in this way will there be any hope of addressing and solving the oppressive conditions under which all too many of our citizens, black and white, are forced to live.

Only when those who work against the best interest of our people are replaced by those who work for the best interests of our people can Baltimore begin to become the great city it should have been long before now.

This is to large measure the challenge COPE '83 has presented black Baltimore and we are confident our community will respond resoundingly.

COPE Postscript

COPE '83 is brand new insofar as the public is concerned but months of planning went into its creation.

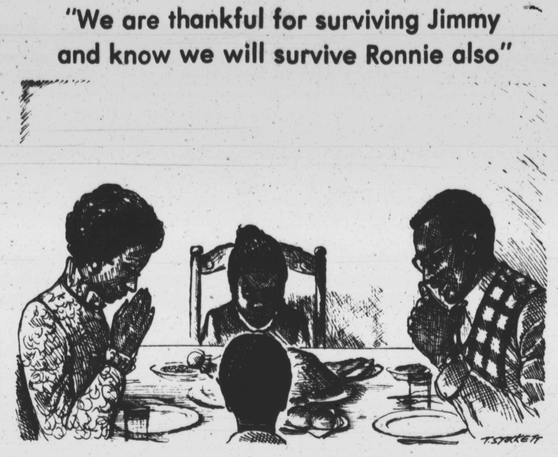
We are sure that as it evolves, and by its designers own reckoning it is still very much in the formative process, it will expand in two very important directions.

First, we very much would want to see COPE involve as many young and youngish citizens as can commit themselves to such a serious undertaking.

Without malice, COPE is an expression of our community elders and probably had to come out of this collective wisdom, if it was to happen at all.

Secondly, we would hope that COPE moves quickly to achieve a male-female balance in the several important committees essential to its success.

This done, and we are sure it is being done, that much more is a fine community effort going to be strengthened for the long hard fight that lies ahead.



G. JAMES FLEMING

Reagan and the High Court

What coloration will the Supreme Court take on during and by the end of, the presidency of Ronald Reagan? Not will it become more conservative, but how conservative will it become?

Even if Reagan has no opportunity to name new judges, will the present Court, after reading the returns of the recent election and knowing the current conservative swing, also turn to the right?

The ultimate question is: what kind of candidates will the next president nominate to fill the expected vacancies? And what daring will be assume, since the Senate which must ratify his appointments may be even more conservative than Reagan himself, so far as its majority is concerned.

Determining the answers to these questions, and threatening Reagan, is the ultra-conservative coalition which insured his election and the election of a majority of Republicans and other conservatives in the incoming Congress.

Whatever the answers in words, spokesmen for civil rights organizations and for minority peoples have their fingers crossed. They are afraid that the Supreme Court will about-face-100 percent — from the Warren Court and from even the incumbent Court, by the time Reagan gets through with it—both by appointments and by laws strangling the powers of the Court.

The signs are already ominous in the land—by the efforts of Congress to prevent the Justice Department from expending federal funds to enforce school busing ordered by federal courts, and by the recent acquittal, by an all-white North Carolina jury, of six members of the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party, who were tried for the fatal shooting down of five Communist Workers Party members (including one black woman), all five of whom were demonstrating against the Klan. There are other signs of the times.

Sometimes a single new appointment can change the dominant majority of a court where it takes only five to make a majority.

As far as blacks are concerned, it is not expected that Reagan's coalition of support will permit him to name another black nominee to replace Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall, who was sworn in in 1967 and is now 72 years of age.

The promise of the President-elect to name a woman to the highest Court, if kept, may be all Reagan can do in this area of appeasing minority groups—especially since blacks gave 83 percent of their vote to Jimmy Carter.

Political observers speculate, as they have speculated for months, that if Justice Marshall could have retired early in 1979, such retirement would have permitted President Carter to name another black person to succeed him.

There seems to be no doubt that Reagan as president, will have the opportunity to appoint some new justices to the Supreme Court, due to retirements by virtue of age or illness, or due to death which cannot be overlooked where five of the nine members of the court have already passed their three-score and ten.

Some pronosticators predict at least four vacancies will occur during Reagan's term or terms. The number of new justices that each president in this century, has had the opportunity to add to the Court, is shown in the nearby listing, and may give a clue to the future. Only President Carter will not have filled any vacancies, not having had the opportunity to do so.

Supreme Court Appointments by Presidents this Century

President	Years in Office	Justices Named
Roosevelt, T.	1901-09	3
Taft	1909-13	5
Wilson	1931-21	3
Harding	1921-23	4
Coolidge	1923-29	1
Hoover	1929-33	3
Roosevelt	1933-45	8
Truman	1945-53	4
Eisenhower	1953-61	5
Kennedy	1961-63	2
Johnson	1963-69	2
Nixon	1969-74	4
Ford	1974-77	1
Carter	1977-	0

PARREN MITCHELL

Concern and aid for the aging

Last month I participated in a Congressional update at Morgan State University, sponsored jointly by the Maryland State Office on Aging and the Center for Urban Environmental Studies.

The focus was on the aged, and I openly expressed my alarm at some very disturbing facts which continue to prevail throughout this nation.

First of all, as the Congress and the Executive branch continue to address the pressing issue of inflation, it is sometimes forgotten that the economic status of our elderly residents is one of the most severely threatened.

For example, as of 1977, there were nearly 23.5 million Americans age 65 or older. While this is 10.9 percent of the overall population, it is 13 percent of the 25 million Americans whose incomes place them below the official poverty line.

In addition, the areas of major expenditure for older persons have increased faster than the overall inflation rate. Medical care has risen to 227.8 percent; food at home has risen to 217.9 percent; and housing costs have spiraled to 211.5 percent.

The burden of inflation on the elderly is exceptional, both in terms of the items they buy and their reduced ability to buy due to lower money incomes.

To look closely, medical expenses for persons over 65 are, on the average, three times as expensive ($1,800 annually) than for younger persons ($600), yet Medicare pays less than half of a person's medical costs, an average 44 percent.

Other deficiencies in this coverage are illustrated by the lack of Medicare assistance for these cases: (1) the over 5 million elderly Americans who wear eyeglasses that need correction; (2) the over 3 million people over 65 who have dentures that need replacing or refitting; and, (3) the over 1 million senior citizens who are unable to hear words in a normal voice and need hearing aids or medical help.

A further look at food expenditures shows that higher energy costs are built into the prices of most consumer goods and services, severely affecting fixed income recipients.

Food prices in particular are higher due to the dual influence of increased costs for our mechanized growing system and for the transportation of food stuffs from farm to market. The escalating costs of food at the supermarket jeopardizes seriously the increased effort to portation of food stuffs from farm to market. The escalating costs of food at the supermarket jeopardizes seriously the increased effort to prevent the spread of malnutrition among the elderly by better education.

For minority and low income elderly residents, the problem of housing is perhaps the most critical. Elderly minority homeowners are several times more likely to live in deficient homes than non-minority counterparts with similar incomes.

This is coupled with the fact that lower-income people of all ages have much higher rates of housing inadequacy than others, and are forced to spend less on their own to maintain or improve their homes.

For all elderly residents, home ownership can be an inflation-propelled drain on current income or other assets through taxes, repairs, and operating expenses.

The areas of basic housing obsolescence (eg., incomplete plumbing and kitchen facilities, inadequate heating facilities), provide a higher occurrence rate among the elderly.

Such programs as federally subsidized housing, state and local property tax relief, community sponsored public transportation, and repair assistance continue to be available.

However, according to the Urban Institute, an overall assessment shows that current Federal programs for helping homeowners maintain and rehabilitate their dwellings fall short of the needs of the elderly.

For example, with individual Federal housing repair programs, a major problem (as noted with HUD's Section 312 loan program), is that many elderly homeowners are unwilling, and/or financially unable to use loan assistance for home repairs.

Continued Next Week

LETTERS:

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

College presidents commend Dr. Andrew Billingsley

Dear AFRO:

This letter written on behalf of the National Association For Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). The membership of this organization consists of the presidents of 107 historically black colleges and universities, many of whom met November 9-12, at the Presidential Peer Seminar.

During the deliberations of that conference, attention was called to the current problems at Morgan State University. It is in regard to these matters that the NAFEO presidents requested that this communication be sent.

The problems of Morgan State are not endemic to that university, but are prevalent in varying degrees at most other institutions of higher learning at this time.

These difficulties are the result of a number of social and economic issues including, but not limited to, shifting educational roles within systems, changing formats of management- faculty relationships, declining enrollments and insufficient funds.

The general problems are intensified in historically black institutions because of decades of handicapping funding sources and the systemic denial of equality of facilities, resources and access. The issues are further exacerbated by the difficulty, despite assiduous efforts, of increasing significantly the percentage of white students in historically black schools.

It is an established and inescapable fact that historically black colleges and universities have played salient and impactful roles in the democratization of higher learning in the nation, and it must also be remembered that these institutions have produced in the past, and continue today, to produce the preponderant effective black leadership, and the black educated and professional class. These institutions have produced articulate professionals across the nation for reasonable and responsible citizenship and they continue to provide effective environments of high academic quality and efficent management, making possible collegiate experiences for young people, many of whom could not have these exposures were it not for these particular institutions.

The historic role, excellent track record and significant conributions of these schools to higher learning must not be diminished at this critical time in our nation's life, nor blunted by the verbiage or acts which denigrate their image or block the progress of these invaluable, national academic assets.

Voices of reason and understanding in the defense of the viability and vitality of Morgan State University and its president are badly needed now, and we appreciate the role your paper has played in this context.

Dr. Andrew Billingsley is a noted scholar and capable administrator. Prior to becoming the president of Morgan State University, he rendered exceptional and distinguished service as professor and administrator at the University of California at Berkeley, and then as vice - president for academic affairs at Howard University one of the largest black institutions of higher education in the United States.

On the basis of our associations with Dr. Billingsley in NAFEO and on the national scene, we are unanimous in the conviction that he is, by training, competence and expertise, fully qualified to resolve the problems of Morgan State, if he receives the support and cooperation of the University constituencies, the state judicatories, the Board of Regents and the Baltimore community.

We hold him in highest esteem, and project the confidence and expectation that he will be given the opportunity to continue to display his expertise in resolving the current tensions and ambiguities of the university.

The urgency of the mission and commitment of the university to the education of the citizens of the state of Maryland and its goal of becoming a truly outstanding university must not be eroded, but enhanced and supported by all responsible persons.

CHARLES A. LYONS, JR.

Thanks from Arson Task Force

Dear AFRO:

As chairman of Baltimore City's Arson Task Froce, I wish to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the task force members for the cooperation displayed by the news media in aiding our fight against arson in the City of Baltimore.

Your coverage of the Bay College fire on Oct. 17, 1980 was extensive, and wherever possible you publicized the arson hot line number (1-800-493-7529).

Through your efforts, many calls were received on the hot line at Fire Depatment and Police Department Communications. Subsequently, an arrest was made, and, again, your coverage was excellent.

The Task Force has expended much effort and time in publicizing the arson hot line and the many problems resulting from the crime of arson in Baltimore City.

Brochures have been printed and distributed, advertising on M.T.A. buses has been purchased, bumper stickers now adorn most City vehicles, the arson message will be seen on billboards throughout the City in the near future, and business cards with the hot line are now being printed to be distributed at fires where arson is suspected.

But it is obvious that the best way to convey the Arson Task Force's message is to have the cooperation of the media, both written and spoken, as we all witnessed in the coverage of the devastating fires in downtown Baltimore on October 17, 1980.

Again, I offer my thanks on behalf of Mayor William Donald Schaefer and the citizens of Baltimore, Chief Peter J. O'Connor, and the members of Baltimore City's Arson Task Force for your actions which were above and beyond the call of your civic duties in helping to combat arson in the City of Baltimore.

THOMAS J. BURKE

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.

AFRO carrier of the month

Jemetric Allen, 12, was named AFRO "Carrier of the Month" for October and Regina Bond was runner-up.

Allen has been an AFRO Carrier for the past two and one-half years. His customers know him as "Dude".

He attends Gilmor Elementary school where he is a fifth grade student. His hobbies are skating and dancing. His ambition is to attend college and play football.

Allen attends Cornerstone Baptist church.

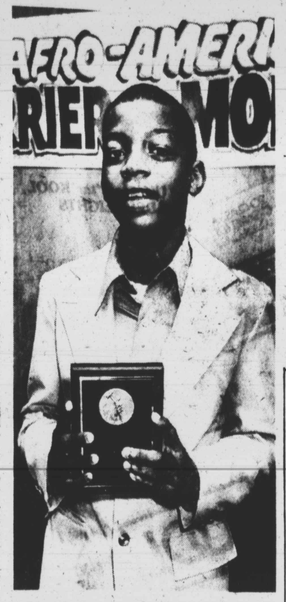
Allen was presented a plaque by Mrs. Grace Singletary, Circulation Administrative Assistant at a ceremony last week at the AFRO. The AFRO carrier runner-up, Regina Bond, could not attend the ceremony because of death in her family.

Mrs. Pearleen Allen mother of Carrier of the Month received a corsage on behalf of the AFRO - AMERICAN manager.

Allen was greeted by company officers, John H. Murphy, III chairman of the Board and Ronald Jackson, vice-president-circulation, Mrs. Mae E. Dyson, company secretary.

Others present for the celebration were: Jeffery and Janice Allen, brother and sister of honoree; Theodore Moore, cousin who helps him serve his papers and Ms. Sheila Travers, neighbor.

Also, Al Tyler, AFRO National Circulation manager and Mrs. Arnetta M. Lottier circulation promotion mana



Jemetric Allen was named AFRO "Carrier of the Month for October at an Awards Ceremony held at the AFRO.

NAACP FREEDOM FUND dinner personalities gathered for a brief reception prior to the affair. Among them, from (L), were: Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., award recipient; Rev. Edward Hailes, president, D.C. Branch NAACP; Vera Williams, treasurer, D.C. Branch NAACP; Bill Cook, first vice president, D.C. Branch, and Maryland Congressman Parren Mitchell, the speaker of the evening.

(Photo by Milton Williams)

If you ask me

By Bettye Moss

Cosell at SIDS

Howard Cosell, the famed ABC sports commentator, was surrounded by fans at the Baltimore Convention Center on Saturday evening.

He was here for the SIDS dedication dinner. The initials stand for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

This is the institute sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Hospital. It is "devoted to identifying causes and finding means of preventing" the infant killer. Sometimes called crib death, it claims the lives of 10,000 babies in the United States every year.

Cosell received a citation for publicizing the program which is the first of its kind in the nation. His wife, Emmy, accompanied him from N.Y.

Both were gracious as they greeted guests and heard the usual "I listen to you all the time," and, "you're my favorite," and other kinds of things people say to celebrities.

Cuff notes: Cosell serves on the Institute's national board of advisors.

So does Claude (Buddy) Young. Cosell advised the audience Young had also come from N.Y. He received warm applause.

Dr. Tildon

SIDS Institute director is Dr. Alfred Steinschneider. Our own Dr. J. Tyson Tildon is director of the research unit.

It is the institute's local board of directors represents a cross-section of Baltimore area residents.

It is their responsibility to set policy, involve the community and its resources, and develop fund-raising drives.

Black members are, Mrs Gordine Blount, director, Division Social work Services, and wife of State Senator Clarence Blount; and, Charles G. Tildon Jr. He is the assistant secretary for community programs in the State Department of Human Resources.

Other black program participants were: Jean Adams, administrative aide to Gov. Harry Hughes, and Mayor Schaefer's, assistant, Quentin Lawson.

They presented their bosses awards to the honorees.

The Tildon family was out in full force. Mrs. Charles Tildon and their son, Charles 3rd, who was 18 on Thanksgiving Day.

The Tyson Tildon family was represented by Mrs. Eleanor Tildon, and their son, Jay, who is 17.

Also about: Dr. and Mrs. John Ward, Ms. Maxine Richardson, Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Whitten, Robert and Helen Quarles, Matthew and Clara Freling, and Bill Waters.

Also there, Father Nalepn Damien pastor of St. Gregory the Great.

People, things

N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co., holds open House at its renovated offices at 407 W. Franklin St., Sunday, Nov. 30, from 1-4 p.m.

The firm's chief executive, William J. Kennedy 3rd, president and chairman of the board, will come from Durham for the big day.

The William (Box)Harrises (Ivy), are in their new apartment on Park Heights Ave.

Lawrence B. Daley, the city treasurer who resigned Friday in the hassle over the long-awaited mortgage investment plan for city home buyers, had an integrated staff.

His deputy was Peggy Watson, a young black woman, who has been on staff five years.

Named interim treasurer, however, was Lloyd W. Jones, a nine-month city employee, giving rise in some quarters that Ms. Watson may be among those considered for the vacancy.

Up at Philadelphia's Airport Sheraton Inn on Friday evening, Baltimore YMCA staffers joined in

(Continued on Page 19)

LAW STUDENTS AND LAWYERS:

Study law in Accra, Ghana this summer

Temple University School of Law and the Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana at Legon jointly sponsor the Fifth Summer Session in Ghana. Emphasis will be on comparative and international law, with concentrated introductory lectures on Ghanaian law and institutions offered during the first weeks of the program. Courses will be conducted in English by U.S. faculty members, by members of the Law Faculty of the University of Ghana and other leading Ghanaian authorities.

The campus is located in a suburb of Accra, Ghana's capital, along a hillside overlooking the Ush Accra plain. Students will have an opportunity to visit Cape Coast to view the old slave forts and to visit the High Court in Accra, a rural lay magistrate's court and a customary law arbitration held by a local chief.

The session is open to any law student in good standing at an approved law school. Graduates of law schools may also enroll. Applications from select graduate students from related disciplines may also be considered. The deadline for application is May 15, 1981; applications received after that date will be considered on the basis of available space.

Dean Peter J. Liacouras, Temple University School of Law, and W.C. Bew Daniels, former Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana, planned the first joint Summer Program. Dr. Daniels is now Minister of the Interior in Ghana.

Dates:
July 3 through August 17, 1981

Tuition and fees:
$525 for up to six semester hours (nine quarter hours) credit including all course materials. Optional tours available at additional cost.

Room and Board:
Participants in the program can take advantage of the modern facilities of the University of Ghana at Legon.

Temple University School of Law in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana at Legon. Fifth Summer Session in Accra, Ghana

Fifth Summer Session in Accra, Ghana
For more information about this program, return this coupon or call or write Assistant Dean Sondra W. Weckesser, 1981 Summer Sessions Abroad, Temple University School of Law, 1719 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122. Telephone (215) 787-8936.

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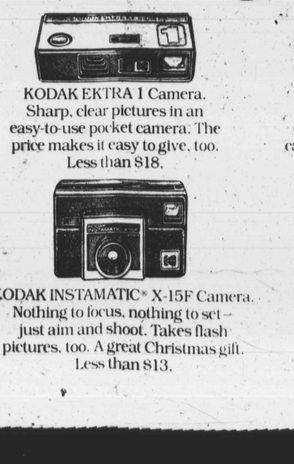

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