Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Onward to Annapolis!

No sooner had we given the black elected officials of this state, who serve in the General Assembly, our annual blessings and blandishments to bring some bacon home (in this space last week), we hear sudden alarms that all is not well.

One politico called our optimism about the Caucus' performance once deliberations begin next week in Annapolis, "a grand send-off" using the most sarcastic voice monafion.

Further, we have recent word that when the Caucus Chairman calls a meeting, no one shows up, including the chairman.

Well, we certainly do not like the sound of this, it even half-accurate.

But we are determined to be positive about our Caucus.

Even if no agenda has been stated in other than the most glib of terms, even if the delegates and senators are not yet sitting down working out strategies and consensus, we feel strongly that the Caucus will come through for our community.

This has not always been the case and the memory of our delegates voting for that credit interest boost last session that benefitted the banking industry at great additional cost to all who must purchase on credit, is still fresh in our memories.

Our brothers and sisters in Annapolis said then that they voted higher credit rates to get a charter for a black bank.

Well we are still waiting on that bank to open its doors.

But this is a new year. Onward to Annapolis!

Honoring Dr. King

To our everlasting credit, black people in Baltimore, Washington, throughout the land, in fact, are determined that the birthday of Martin Luther King never degenerate into a holiday that defiles this slain warrior's goals and mission.

It is fitting that we observe Dr. King's memory with actions that extend his philosophy and methods.

Black people will march on Washington, on January 15th to make it known that King's natal date should be a national holiday.

Black activists, perhaps seeing how business has turned George Washington's birthday into a sell-a-thon where merchants unload everything they could not peddle earlier, speak openly of economic boycotts to commemorate Dr. King's memory.

The late civil rights leader's legendary Montgomery bus protests hit white racists where they really live, in their pocketbooks.

All that we know is planned in celebration of Dr. King's birthday has dignity, pride and quiet militancy at its base.

It is not a day for partying! It is not a day for frivolity.

It is, however, a joyous day, or should be.

We should give eternal thanks that we have such strong men who rise up to lead us, to give us a sense of ourselves, our wonderful black selves.

Dr. King was this, as was Malcom X, Shabazz, Fred Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and Nat Turner.

The list is endless, insofar as we are concerned.

Martin Luther King's birthday singles out but one hero when in fact we are, well nigh, a race of heroes.

How else explains how so many of us have sustained, prevailed, died, been born again in what Malcom was fond of calling the racist wilderness of North America?

Since we landed on these shores in 1619 against our wills, rooted from our homeland, we have endured ever horror racism could devise, and we continue thus.

Dr. King's day is no excuse for any self-respecting black American to rest, go off on a toot or otherwise shirk a continuing responsibility.

It is a day for us to honor this man's spirit, which is our spirit, and reflect on how far we have come and how much further we have to go.

Waiting for Vernon Jordan's report

By Al Sweeney

It doesn't require much savvy to realize that 1980 was a bad year for Black Spokesmen. The initials of which have another connotation among the soil - minded.

Whether B.S., means Bachelor of Science, Black Symbolism or the production of a certain animal, the common interpretation which may be defined as the ability of an individual to articulate with the appropriate metaphors effectively, the bottom line is that when the event is over the listener suddenly emerges from a momentary spell realizing nothing has been learned.

In the Black Experience, we have seen it happen many times.

The spirituals, the flocking to church to hear the minister predict that there is a "good life ahead, if only you keep the faith," the rallies against injustice in which participants get a lift by joining hands and chanting "We Sahll Overcome," are manifestations of how back folk continue to live in hope.

But, early in the morning, when all of the euphoria is gone, the hungry cramp remains in your stomach and realization that piled high on your dining room table are bills that must be paid, something that euphoria can't cure.

In 1980, Ben Hooks of the NAACP, Vernon Jordan of the National Urban League and Jesse Jackson, the freelancer, wound up making hollow sounds. To many blacks, the "Big Three Black Spokesmen were in disarray.

It could be that, as some of the emerging black conservatives point out, that none of the three were really free, economically.

The NAACP gets the bulk of its support from labor. In the 1980 campaign, labor dropped a piece of change on the NAACP and other black organizations to carry on Big Vote.

The Reagan people complain that Big Vote was not too cleverly camouflaged as a partisan political effort.

The Urban League is funded largely by foundations controlled by big business, the United Way campaigns and federal grants. When Jordan tired a verbal blast at SCLC's Joe Lowery and D.C.'s Delegate Walter Fauntroy for intervening in the Middle East Affair, with the PLO's he never could counter the criticism that he followed the orders of his economic supporters.

And of course, there was the unfortunate assassination attempt in Indiana, which Jordan has miraculously recovered. The assailant still officially goes free.

As for Jackson, well, what can you say?

There are some people who might say that there are other Black Spokesmen. Leon Sullivan of OIC, speaks out on many issues, but because of the peculiar structure of his organization, stays mute on certain issues.

Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women is trotted out on occasions when the national organizations want to give a semblance of national black unity. But, she is seldom referred to as a Black Spokesperson.

The AME Church has been making sounds of renewed militance, something that hasn't been seen since the days of the revered Bishop R.R. Hanson. The colorful H. H. Brookins, chairman of the AME's Council of Bishops, has been making strong sounds and leading marches as a sign of the AME's renewed involvement.

And there are a few others. Most of them self-styled and heading groups that have been dipping in the foundation tills for one cause or another.

But, when it is all examined, Hooks and Jordan remain the most sought after spokesmen for the black cause.

That is why, this writer and a number of others, are looking forward to Vernon Jordan's "State of Black America" presentation on January 14.

In past years, Jordan has issued the "State of Black America" annual report from the historic National Press Club.

This year, Jordan is taking his yearly media event to the Blackburn Student Union on the campus of Howard University.

It is an appropriate setting for Jordan's scholarly treatise. Since it is an academic presentation compiled by some of the best minds in the various fields of law, housing, employment, health, economics et al.

At a time when black institutions are facing economic survival, Howard, the nation's largest institution of higher learning and biggest concentration of black academic talent, is ideal.

Like most of the Urban League efforts, the report is a professional, top drawer effort. The facts and figures are documented.

The importance of the Jordan presentation is his interpretation of the trends that his specialists have compiled.

In 1981, when a new era in black relations is unfolding, Jordan's interpretation may set the tone for the immediate future of the Black Experience.

MADELINE MURPHY on public education

Random thoughts

The rewarding part about having grown children is that these with humanities backgrounds, more readily question their reason for being, and their striving to become more humane, less self-centered. Like travel, their education has broadened their outlooks.

Thus it is with the now famous Marva Coffins and her experimental school in Chicago, where the smallest student is comfortable with Shakespeare, with great books, that logic and philosophy have become the grounding for a more developed personality.

It was understandable therefore, that she would refuse a cabinet post as Secretary of the Department of Education, when the attitude of the Reagan administration is one of derision; destruction of the department rather than one of support.

Against this background we must look at our local school system to find out what we must do to strengthen it.

Too many people talk about quality education without defining what they mean. Is it learning the three R's? Is it becoming proficient in a trade? Will it make going to college predictable? Is it molding all students into middle class dogma, overlooking or denigrating that culture that makes them unique, yet able to learn anything, like Marva Collins' students?

Recently there has been public discussion about not only quality education, but also quality teaching. Forever it seems that people are trying to find out why our kids can't pass tests, get jobs, or have trouble reading, writing or figuring.

We blame it on too much busing, or not enough; too little desegregation or too much. Not enough parent involvement, too much baby sitting for teachers whether should be teaching orderly, obedient students.

The more radical inference has become that given unruly students, disinterested parents, compulsory education should be abolished.

But who would choose the qualified students? Ah, there's the rub!

Further, given the rising teachers salaries, high pay for administering a school system the question comes to mind, Where does the buck stop? What do we pay our supervisors and superintendents to do?

Must there now be more money spent to study the cause and effect of public school education, or must we make the supervisors, superintendents, principals, motivate the teachers to do their best?

One parent complained that although she knew that her son might be unruly, why must he be suspended without a period of onsit punishment that would encourage him to learn? Why must she, the breadwinner be called to school for appointments that are either postponed or take away a valuable day's pay? And then be plagued by the fear that her suspended son is running amuck?

Instead of looking at the good ole days, however when everything looked rosy, isn't it time to revive that part of the olden days that dictated that teachers should be in "loco parentis" (in place of parents)? That they must be given more power, versatility; permitted to be more creative to do the job we pay them dearly to do? Develop the empathy and understanding "foster" parents should feel for their children?

With talk of legislating tests for teachers to find out their competency, the same should be done for principals, supervisors and superintendents, because if they are paid well to find good teachers, or to monitor them, how can so many be found to be incompetent?

In trying to close the gap between technological progress and educational lag, can it be possible that the system has gullibly opted for technology in the classroom, further alienating the valuable teacher pupil interaction. Or now, in these disruptive times, are teachers afraid to interact?

Moreover, just at the time when we encourage kids to articulate (between kindergarten and sixth grade) why do we muzzle them, goose step them, punish them into blind silent conformity at the peak of their self-expression between junior and senior high school?

Maybe it's not so much how competent or proficient the teachers are, rather it may be how antiquated or impersonally technical the system, or out of step the administrators have become, without recognizing changing social and economic values that cause boredom and consequent disruption in the classroom. From this writer's view point, more must be done than test the teachers.

Citizen's groups should be formed to mesh reality with expectations; to harness energies and potential; to inspire this excellence about which we preach so much yet practice so little.

Isn't it after all that one teaches children, who come from a complex world, and not material spawned from an ivory tower controlled by textbook and hardware monopolies?

Rather than have a Jesse Jackson lockstep us into the existing order, with unrealistic demands upon diminishing family life, as we once knew it, perhaps we need Marva Collins to come to Baltimore to show us how to do it!

LETTERS

The NAACP election —*What price winning, supporting?*

Dear AFRO:

Visible concern for the NAACP became more evident during the election last Tuesday than it has been for quite some time.

Perhaps because the timing followed so closely the recent presidential election, some unsavory politicking occurred. Perhaps the struggle for leadership has been a fact screened in the days to the election by the need to present an apparently united front so as not to affect adversely the current membership drive. Whatever the reason, my experience at the polling place was one for which was totally unprepared.

Let me share it! As Dr. Bascom and I approached the NAACP office, were approached by Paul Showell, a candidate for the office of vice-president, who offered us voting literature. When Dr. Bascom indicated that he did not want the literature, he was admonished thusly, "Ah, come on Bascom!"

When Dr. Bascom asked Mr. Showell if in fact he knew him well enough to address him in such a familiar manner, Mr. Showell tried to turn it into a joke.

Finally, when Dr. Bascom reminded him that he was rather his father's peer, Mr. Showell made a weak apology. I tried to share with Mr. Showell my deep respect for members of his family with whom I had worked in the past and my surprise at his indiscretion. His rejoinder to me was. "Ah, go ahead! You don't even know what's happening!"

I can only hope that others who refused campaign literature were treated in such a disrespectful way. While I may not know all that is happening, I can assure Mr. Showell that I know some things that may have happened:

1. I know that while Mrs. Enolia McMillan's leadership may not be dressed in the most modern style, it has been addressed to the needs of Baltimore City to remain an integral part of the national body and to speak to issues which are not in the best interest of black citizens.

2. I know that Mrs. McMillan has paid the price of leadership, in time, example, financial support, interaction with supportive groups.

3. I know that Mrs. McMillan makes a creditable presentation of the problems of our city and the work of the NAACP when she addresses the community whether in person or via news media.

4. I know that Mrs. McMillan will not be cowered by groups or individuals who would be pleased to have her maintain the status quo.

5. I know that Mrs. McMillan has been able to garner the financial support of many of the churches in our city, the Masonic order and other social and civic groups.

Perhaps Mr. Showell would like to address some of the things he knows not here cited. Hopefully, his manner on the executive board of the NAACP will be more respectful, and will be one which will seek to draw and maintain support for the organization. When it is all totalled, the price of campaigning and winning is leading.

This is where the new board should be seeking to show its strength. Hopefully, too, Mr. Showell, because of his unbridled enthusiasm, will be able to push-pull the NAACP to greater involvement.

Be that as it may, when the NAACP needs support, it will be Dr. Bascom and the membership of Douglas Memorial Community Church, along with many other malaise leaders and their churches, who will be ther to keep the cause bigger than the individual.

Best wishes from one who "doesn't even know what's happening."

DOROTHY B. BASCOM

Councilman Reeves opposes Harbor restaurant

Dear AFRO:

I herewith state my vehement and unequivocal objection to the granting of any liquor license for the Rusty Scupper which is proposed to be located in the Rash Field area.

As the city liquor board is aware, the Rusty Scupper is a part of the Nestle Company, a foreign corporation headquartered in Switzerland.

Nestle is the company which has aggressively promoted and marketed infant formula in the undeveloped nation of Africa. As a part of their promotional activities, they have further compounded the deception of the consumers by sending quasi-medical personnel into Africa to "sell" the advantages of using infant formula and to discourage the breast feeding of infants.

Their policies have been widely publicized in e New York Times and through other news media. Because of their practices, the use of this formula has resulted in widespread malnutrition and increased infant mortality.

These practices have more recently been the subject of criticism by the United Nations World Health Organization, who have expressed their concern about the irresponsible and immoral actions by Nestle.

Nestle's actions in promoting the use of infant formula in the Third World nations are highly unconscionable and immoral.

I think, in light of their actions, this Board would have to find that their corporation's character is not fit to be entitled to the privileges of a license from the City of Baltimore.

Rhetorically, would this Board grant a license to an individual who serves poison knowingly at his establishment? I think not.

In this instance, it has been well documented that their actions have caused malnutrition and death—perhaps, more insidiously than the proverbial "cup of Hemlock," that was offered to Socrates.

Nestle has a public trust to uphold in assuring that their products are safe and would not result in harm to the individual who consumes them. We have witnessed the recent withdrawal of tampons from the market because the effect of their usage was deleterious to the health of the consumer.

There are numerous other examples of other products which have been withdrawn from the market because they are unsafe or their usage, under certain conditions, could be hazardous to the health of the consumers.

To say, "let the buyer beware" is trail justification for the illness or death of children.

Asguardians of the public trust, I strongly feel that the liquor board must withhold the granting of this license until such time as the corporation's sponsor demonstrates that they can discharge their moral and corporate responsibilities in such a manner that does not put corporate profit before the public's welfare.

Should the Board fail to do this, they will effectively insult the black citizens of this nation whose homeland is Africa.

NORMAN V.A. REEVES

More on black architects

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for printing Leon Bridges' timely article titled "Black Clients, White Architects." Mr. Bridges need not apologize for the anticipated taunt that his remarks are racists, for every black professional and business person recognizes and has experienced the problems of which he speaks.

As a broker with a contract for insurance services to Provident Hospital, a black institution, I was once informed by a black official (who, thankfully, has since been removed) that he "would rather deal directly with large white firms."

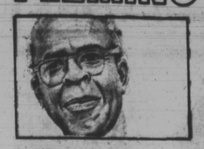
All of which leads me to publicly encourage the 4,000 member black flock of Shiloh Baptist Chruch to consider bids by black insurance brokers for risk coverage on the construction and the installation of the new edifice.

As long as black people are faced with the reality of the colorline and subversion of their own resources as barring to earning a decent living in this economy, platitudes about brotherhood and justice remains just a hat—platitudes.

FRANK M. CONAWAY

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.

G. JAMES FLEMING



Celebrating Dr. King's birthday

Putting significance into the birthday anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is a challenge that is being met only spottedly in most communities, even in those states where the anniversary of the late revered leader is a legal holiday.

A day off from school or work is not enough, unless some dramatic programming takes the place of "work as usual" or "school as usual." What Martin Luther King stood for, and the message he left to be carried forward, are too important and essential to the nation to be forgotten.

In too many places, including schools and colleges, churches and synagogues, in homes and community centers, and in legislative halls only very slight attention, or no attention at all, is paid to Jan. 15, the birthday of the man who stirred the world with his sterlorian "I Have a Dream." The man, too, who galvanized black Americans into a unity they had not achieved in generations.

But, Martin Luther King's memory is not significant to blacks only. His life and times—and his memory—should be meaningful to members of all brands of religion, of all races and nationalities, and to all schools of philosophy—all those who honor the figures in history who have stood for universal brotherhood, for freedom and justice to all, and for love and peace instead of hatred and war.

Greater Baltimore has won a place for itself with its Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Breakfast, attended annually by over 1,500 of the representative citizens of the metropolitan area, under the auspices of the YMCA of Central Maryland.

At this event, business, labor, government, and civic organizations join hands in presenting an eloquent, thoughtful and provocative speaker, and the media give extra wings and voice to the happenings by widespread coverage.

In Atlanta, home of Dr. King and the location of the assassinated leader's tomb, a series of seminars and workshops, year-long, are sponsored by the Martin Luther King Center. These projects reach their climax during the week of Dr. King's birthday.

Perhaps the most pervasive observance will be held for the third year, in nearby Richmond, Va.: "The Annual Community Learning week in Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday." The theme, Jan. 11-15, is "Mobilizing for Economic Progress" and 24 different events are listed.

While looking forward to the future, the 5-day citywide program also pays its respect to the King of history. The opening Sunday is labelled "Martin Luther King's Sunday in Richmond Area Churches," climaxed by an evening program at Virginia Union University at which the rendition of "I Have a Dream" will be presented.

Scattered throughout the week are lectures, panel discussions, workshops and other events, of which the following is a sampling:

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as an Educational Leader," at a Baptist Ministers Conference;

"Small Business—Survival in the 80s," under auspices of the Metropolitan Business League;

"Cooperative Efforts for Capital Formation," coordinated by the Richmond Urban League;

"Strategies for Social Change—Building on the Heritage of Dr. King," also sponsored by the Richmond League;

"Virginia Politics—A Look Backward and Forward," at which the editor of the Richmond AFRO is one of the participants.

There will also be an exhibit of African art and music sponsored by students of Virginia Commonwealth University. At the State Capitol, a "Legislative Workshop" is scheduled for Jan 15, under the auspices of the Black Caucus of the Virginia General Assembly.

Virginia Union University is playing a prominent part in "the Week" by a stellar demonstration of cooperation of the part of faculty, students and administration. Many functions are being held in the university's hall, and both teachers and students are giving lectures and demonstrations, both to the public in general and to regular classes. Programs are also scheduled in the public schools of Richmond.

In Baltimore and other areas, colleges and schools, across racial lines, will be observing the birthday of Martin King, in one way or the other—but Richmond, Va., deserves the Blue Ribbon for its multi-faceted celebration, over several days, and with a citywide impact.

POLITICAL PERISCOPE

Curious caucus

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

One of the basic tenets of wise shopping is to know what you want before you go to the store, otherwise you may come back home with a lot of things you don't really need.

If you are an individual, then few are affected by your failure to produce, but if you are a member of the Maryland General Assembly Black Caucus, then the entire community may feel the fall-out of your failure.

This year's caucus, under the direction of Del. Frank Conaway, D-40, is heading down to Annapolis with no clear-cut plan to effect any real change in the plight of their constituents.

Although Conaway says that the caucus will be concerned with minority business enterprise, higher welfare payments, supervisory state government positions, and more money for Morgan State University, there appears to be a lack of concrete planning, at least at this point.

The second meeting of the caucus in nine months will be held the day after the first session of the General Assembly. The first meeting was held during the summer, and out of that came a list of committees which, according to Conaway, will facilitate the passage of legislation pertinent to those committees.

But, to re-hash the metaphor of the unprepared shopper, what if the caucus runs across something special on issue of special importance to their constituency but lacks the skill and practice to handle the issue?

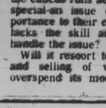
Will it resort to panic buying and selling of votes. Will it overspend its modest budget of power, and in the end return home with only a few high-priced pieces of legislation fit for consumption by only a special handful of their constituents?

That remains to be seen. But in the past, the black community has sat down to await the feast brought back by the warriors of Annapolis, only to shrug their shoulders and drift away when they find the same old meal on their plates.

Conaway is a tough, shrewd politician who has spent the nine-month vacation period making his feelings known regarding black employment in state government.

But let us hope that Conaway does not fall victim to the old "trickledown" theory—let us hope he realizes that most of his constituents never, ever, catch whatever is supposed to trickle down.

IT SEEMS TO ME:



Dr. King must live

By Preston K. Yancy

I raised the question once "Why Dr. King?" Why not one of the hundreds of black men and women vying for black "leadership." I am not sure that I have a totally satisfactory answer yet but I am convinced that Dr. King came to represent black America's aspirations and image of itself.

He was so much the way we aspired to be. He was cool. Nothing seemed to upset him. The courage of black people was a matter of record, but that record had been obscured. The movies and the rest of the mass media had subtly conveyed the image of black people as cowardly.

While the white hero such as Tom Mix did battle with the bad guys their black servants hid trembling in the closet. That image of black people was much more prominent than that of Dorie Miller or numerous black war heroes.

The Hollywood version of the cavalry's rescue never revealed that the Ninth and Tenth Calvaries were predominantly black. So the American people did not associate Afro - Americans with courage and black people did not view themselves as being courageous.

Then Dr. King came along promoting non - violent civil disobedience — a different kind of courage. After Dr. King was assassinated James J. Kilpatrick — hardly a champion of desegregation — called him the bravest man he ever saw.

Dr. King's courage must live in the black community in the 1980s if we are to move beyond mere survival and existence to survival with dignity and real progress.

Martin Luther King Jr. was intelligent. George Boyd, a history teacher in the Richmond Public Schools and my classmate, has a motto I have commented on before "Ignoramuses have never conducted a successful revolution." Ignoramuses have never done anything constructive.

Dr. King looked and acted intelligent because he was intelligent. The hypothesis of black intellectual inferiority is persistent and pervasive. Martin Luther King Jr. was the living antithesis of the view that black people are inferior.

In the future we will need Dr. King's intelligence and his confidence in our intelligence to move beyond where we are.

And Dr. King had soul. His sermons were a blend of intelligence and soul. Soul is that term which came in the 1960s to mean those intangible black characteristics that have to do with a philosophy of life and a response to life. The Negro spirituals and blues are a part of the whole concept of soul.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech is an excellent example of soul.

So Richmond should support the Community Learning Week in celebration of Dr. King's birthday to keep before us his courage, intelligence and soul. If we are to move beyound where we are Dr. King must live.

Most of the events will be held on the campus of Virginia Union University. Details may be obtained by calling the Rev. T. C. Milliner at 771-4415.

—MORE LETTERS—

Inner city students

Dear, AFRO:

Much has been written about innercity teachers. However, little has been said about innercity students.

Many of these students are disrespectful, rude, and belligerent. Far too many students view the teacher as a person to be physically and verbally abused and see the schools as places to be vandalized.

Teachers have a difficult task in overcoming the extreme indifference and apathy of certain students. Home study is practically non-existent. Home assignments, if prepared at all, are poorly done. A majority of the students will report to classes without a notebook, pen, pencil, or a textbook and will not participate in any learning activity.

Until innercity parents teach their children that; 1. teachers and schools are to be respected, 2. that a good education is a stepping stone to success, the innercity schools will not be able to function properly as institutions of learning.

GEORGE T. SCOTT, JR.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE in Texas is full of No No's and naughtiness and it's downright bold but you'll crack up laughing. The Mechanic was crowded Tuesday night with celebrities and fashionable highbrows who did not sneak out at intermission. You'll have to see it to believe it.

M. WHIRAM GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A. M., and the Naomi Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, will present in Concert, "The Maryland Suburban Mass Chour" with special guests "The St. Cecelia's Gospel Choir," on Saturday, Jan. 17, 4 p.m. to aid the Building Expansion Drive.

The OES extends cordial invitation to you and your guests to share this occasion with the Masonic Order at Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill and Lanvale. Donation $3.

John V. Thornton is Grand Master and Helen M. Carter, Grand Worthy Matron.

"A WIND BETWEEN THE HOUSES," a whimsical comedy, opens at Arena Playhouse, 801 McCulloh, Friday, Jan. 9 and continues weekends through Sunday, Feb. 1.

Written By

Maurice Hill, "A Wind" involves an eccentric woman who keeps her late husband's ashes on the mantelpiece and acts as if he were still alive.

The show marks the reunion of four of Arena's stellar leading ladies. June Thorne, Christine Moore, Lorraine Brown and Nancy Barrick.

SOUTH BALTIMORE General Hospital has approval to open a Registered Nursing Mobility Program for Licensed Practical Nurses.

Inaugurated in January, the program allows L.P.N.'s to earn an R. N. diploma with one additional year study.

Applications will be accepted in September. Call South Baltimore General, 354-1000, ext. 643.

THE YWCA is accepting applications from teen women who live in Southeast Baltimore for Nontraditional Jobs Training Program.

Entitled, "Toward a Better Future," this will improve employment potential of women 18-21, in the area of non - traditional jobs.

Teens will be trained through use of remedial tutoring, skill training, physical training and career development workshops. For info call Teresa Hawkins, YWCA, 685-1460.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, in commemoration of its 100th birthday is sponsoring a national poster contest. All artists are encouraged to submit designs that capture the spirit of the Red Cross as it enters its second century.

The theme is "Together We Can Change Things."

The winner will receive an award and extensive publicity as the poster will be used, nationwide, for years to come. Contestants must submit designs by Feb. 22, 1981.

To receive the kit with contest rules, specifications and entry forms, send a letter including name, address and $15 entry fee to: Poster Contest, American Red Cross, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C. 20006.

CHANGING TIMES— Nothing stays the same anymore. Almost over night the school system looks different. Dr. Rebecca Carroll who has always been a pleasant and familiar personality on the scene has retired.

EARL HAGAN has left the principalship at Douglass High and Jean Owens is taking his place. Vondalee Clark will be away from the Central West Region on sick leave. Now George Ricks is carrying the load.

OVER 100 administrators and teachers due to retire in June say "We can't wait until the day."

SATURDAY night marks the Yale party for the 50 volunteer chaplains who under Rev. William Johnson spend hundreds of hours taking spiritual care of the patients at Provident Hospital. Blessings on each one of them.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 14 marks the opening of the General Assembly in Annapolis, an event all school kids should witness.

LOOKING AHEAD with excitement to July, I plan to take my grandkids to the Aequarium's Rain Forest.

THERE we will see my graceful 1½ inch striped fish of dark blue, brilliant green, light blue and bright red. It's mine and a Christmas gift from Mayor Schaefer.

CALLED the Neon Tetra, the tiny little devil has been presented on my behalf and it glows with irridescent charm and the Mayor says it is like Baltimore folks, thriving best when with neighbors — swimming around and sparkling with cheery warmth.

THANKS, Wm. Donald. That's nice. By the way, I did not find my Change Things in Israel. Why? There are over 10,000 of them given by folks in the United States.

Wonder if I will be able to find my fish among the thousands at the Aequarium come July?

REV. DR. GEORGE CRAWLEY JR. had a wonderful holiday gift. He found his Aunt Loretta Bagley whom he had not seen nor heard from in 50 years.

It happened this way. One Sunday in October a lady at Memorial Baptist Church asked, "Rev., when was the last time you heard from your Aunt Loretta and cousins?"

Subsequently by exchanging phone numbers that very evening, the lost aunt was found. On Thanksgiving-Day Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Crawley entertained his long lost Aunt Loretta in their home. They arrived here from Ossining and Yorktown Hgts., Upstate New York.

DELIGHTED, George reveals that he believes Aunt Loretta was sent miraculously to take his deceased sister Bertha's place.

Reagan, race and responsibility

By Carlos C. Campbell

During the weeks following the election of Governor Reagan to the presidency, a number of "black leaders" have expressed their concerns about the pending administration. Some would have us believe that we are on the verge of an Armageddon for black folk and that the Republican victory of 1980 is a cause for "hysteria."

Campaign 1980 was a victory of the politics of determination over the politics of desperation; a call for economic reform over fiscal and monetary chaos; a cry for defense preparedness over military ineptness; and a desire to re - establish government for the people, of the people and by the people, as opposed to government at the people, on the people and to the people.

President - elect Reagan is not a "Bogie Man", but rather a force to be respected, representing a time that has come. In the erstwhile search for a "New Beginning" and to restore our sense of national self worth, America has chosen to return to the basics.

Conservativism is not a euphemism for racism and liberalism is not a euphemism for social responsibility.

James Reston wrote, "The truth that makes men free, is often the truth they do not want to hear."

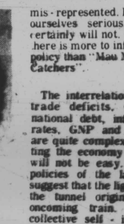
An examination of history may reveal that Democrats often promise what they can't deliver, and that Republicans often deliver what they can't promise. During the administration of President Nixon, it was Samuel C. Jackson, general assistant secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, whose office provided the first federal planning grant and who initiated other forms of federal assistance to Fayette, Miss. Fayette's Mayor Charles Evers, who experienced nearly eight years under Republicans and four under Democrats in the White House, endorsed Governor Reagan.

The exercise of our will, as black people, and as a nation, must be directed toward making democracy democratic, both in the Jeffersonian sense, and with respect to political pluralism. Some of our vulnerability, as blacks, lies with an undue allegiance to the Democratic Party, as if it were going to result in the second coming of FDR. Of some 5,000 black elected officials in the nation, including about 200 mayors and 19 members of Congress, the majority, as are black voting patterns, disproportionately democratic. Added to this and further compounding the plight of blacks is that assertions for redress are frequently based on color as opposed to condition, not that the two are always mutually exclusive.

I do not want to suggest or imply that either political party is all good or all bad, but rather that the imbalance that has existed during the last several decades works to our disadvantage. Moreover, there appears to exist within the context of the conservative philosophy, sufficient latitude for the best interests of all Americans to be pursued.

A major shortfall of the civil rights initiatives of the sixties was the failure to strengthen organizations to the point where they could closely monitor and influence the day - to - day operations of the executive branch. The exercise of "interposition and nullification" is not uncommon. Opposing groups closely examine and make full use of the Federal Register, monitor an assortment of regulations, guidelines, and policy directives, and often enjoy greater access to top level executives, formally and informally, and consequently subvert the intent of legislative initiatives.

Regardless of who is president, this process will probably continue and presents a considerable challenge. Added to this are a host of public hearings, at all levels of government, and meetings in "smoke filled rooms" where black folk are either not represented or mis - represented. If we do not take ourselves seriously, white folk certainly will not. In other words, here is more to influencing public policy than "Man Mauling the Flak Catchers".



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The interrelationships between trade deficits, OPEC prices, national debt, inflation, interest rates, GNP and unemployment are quite complex. In short, getting the economy back on track will not be easy. The economic policies of the last four years suggest that the light at the end of the tunnel originated from an oncoming train. It is in the collective self - interests of all Americans to support any and all attempts to restore economic growth to this nation under the Reagan administration. Cynics might argue that the last time black folk enjoyed full employment in America was during slavery. Notwithstanding the latter statement, the idea of revising the mimimum wage standards for those under 18 years of age must not fall on deaf ears, especially if the end result means more jobs with opportunities for upward mobility.

It is reprehensive that there are abuses in the nation's welfare system and that such payments have passed to succeeding generations of the same families. Public assistance, when and where necessary, must be directed toward those with the greatest need. Within this context, public assistance payments must not serve to stifle or destroy individual or group initiative — or otherwise subvert the will.

Many of America's central cities are becoming havens for the elderly, the poor, families without school age children, and families who can afford to send their children to either private or parochial schools. When busing becomes an incentive for some and a disincentive for others with objectives toward quality education subverted and increased racial polarization resulting, then other methods must be considered.

It is not enough to say that when our economy improves, that the less fortunate will be better off. For too long mid - twentieth century Democracy in America has been about the politics of pacification and not the politics of purpose. Federal domestic programs have resulted accordingly, in isolated acts of charity. Given that the strength of black elected officials is at the state and local level, as are the problems, efforts to return management and control to these levels of government warrant serious consideration.

As we approach the twilight of this millennium, our interests may best be served by listening to those who remind us that we are not traveling a journey on "The Yellow Brick Road", but rather one on "The Road to Jericho." And on this road, the choice might be, as the late architect Frank Lloyd Wright said, one of "honest arrogance" over "hypocritical humility".

JAN