Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Lockwood Building questions

We like to think we had some input regarding the Community College of Baltimore board's decision to maintain the integrity of the Lockwood Building on the Harbor campus.

But we are concerned anew.

The CCB trustees are now considering recommendations from a special task force that would see increased commercial development on land immediately surrounding the Lockwood Complex.

Envisioned is an entertainment field, a conference center, retail shops and an officer tower building.

We know how determined the mayor is to commercialize every square inch of the Harbor area but we hope in his relentless zeal he does not compromise educational institutions or bury them under a overload of business edifices that would be an intrusion on the Harbor campus.

Reagan budget cuts

In a letter to Congress, recently, Dr. Nancy A. Humphreys, president National Association of Social Workers (NASW), voiced strenuous objections to the overall thrust of President Ronald Reagan's budget cuts, calling the proposals "Wrong-handed because they are not anti-inflationary, do nothing to specifically curb the demand for goods and will ultimately undermine the legislative process."

Humphreys, who is an associate professor, Rutgers University School of Social Work said, "The social programs (food stamps, Medicaid and CETA) being cut provide the marginal support needed to make low-income persons productive members of society."

Unlike alternative proposals such as removing the consumer credit and mortgage interest tax deductions, she points out, "These cuts do nothing to specifically curb the demand for goods whose prices are rising rapidly."

The underlying philosophy of Reagan's economic program centers on stalling the growth of the social welfare state," Humphreys adds, "and clearly it does."

However, she notes funding for social services has not grown unconstitutionally as the Reagan Administration apparently believes.

In fact, she points out, funding for social services has suffered a loss of 6 percent from 1977-1980.

Humphreys who served in California's public welfare department during Reagan's term as governor, also believes, the block grant approach for social services program "will only increase bureaucratic overhead and subvert national priorities and policies."

Each state would have to develop and maintain its own political and administrative systems for doing the work now done at the federal level. In addition, service providers and constituency groups, will face the added cost of jockeying for funds before hundreds of state and local government," she points out.

"Forty diverse programs from Title XX and mental health to immunizations and rat control will be competing for funds which will have the effect of leaving the quality and quantity of these vital services to local whims," NASW, with 85,000 members in 50 states, represents the profession which for decades has worked for the poor and attempted to remove the barriers that keep them from joining the mainstream of society," she states.

In conclusion, Humphreys urges Congress to refuse to consider the conversion to a block grant in the reconciliation process without full hearings and authorizing committee deliberation and to restore funding to current services.

Project BUILD

Project B.U.I.L.D. deserves all manner of Kudos.

This volunteer organization's study and analysis of Baltimore banking practices which discriminate both against black mortgage seekers and predominantly black neighborhoods is a tremendous accomplishment.

BUILD's economic survey details the mortgage lending practices of the city's banking houses.

The exclusion of certain neighborhoods and buyers is inexcusable.

One of the several deleterious effects of such banking policies approving mortgages for home-seekers in black neighborhoods it ensures that such neighborhoods continue to deteriorate.

BUILD's study of this "disinvestment" suggests mightily that black Baltimoreans ought to think hard and long about the advantages of black-owned savings and loan associations.

We have two: Advance and Ideal.

Citizens who want to buy homes in black neighborhoods ought to be able to do so without penalty.

Central city homes represent good value at modest price and families should think about staying put rather than moving out to the suburbs where the cost of everything is inflated.

The grass is not always greener.

Lending institutions which are formed to be discriminatory toward customers who happen to live in certain neighborhoods do not deserve our support.

BUILD has spotlighted such practices and their investigation deserves highest praise as well as follow-up action by all of us.

TAKE HEED! — Until the killer or killers are found, parents must keep close watch over their children. Know where your children are at all times.

MADELINE MURPHY

Between a rock and a hard place

Recently in a Miami paper there was a big furor over newly elected conservative Congresswoman Paula Hawkins. It arose over the confradiction between her lavish luncheon given for the press and other Congressmen and her announcement of her bill to weed out food stamp chiselers. One Congressman was heard to almost choke on his sirloin!

When the press questioned Hawkins about money spent and where it came from, she became hostile, evasive and abruptly ended the press conference.

This only highlights the tip of the iceberg of corruption and hypocrisy that is now conservative Congress will show as it gets more arrogantly settled into its axe wielding, red-baiting, budget cutting forays. Hailing out against the least powerful—the poor, middle class and poor minorities.

And adding further insult to injury is the determination by Senator Strom Thurmond to repeal the 1965 Voting Rights Act, slated to be renewed in 1982. The irony of all this is that he won reelection with the support of a considerable number of black votes in South Carolina.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 amended in 1970 and 1975, suspended tests or devices for voting which had been used in the past to stop discriminatory use of literacy tests, educational requirements, good-character tests and exclusively English language registration, where a linguistic minority was more than 5 per cent of the voting age population.

Also the Act requires twenty four covered states or parts of jurisdictions to gain approval or pre-clearance from the Justice Department before changing voting laws or procedures, like removal of polling places, reapportionment, redistricting, to prevent states from excluding citizens from voting because of race, color or language barriers.

Further the act provides federal voter registrars and observers, bilingual ballots and absentee balloting in presidential elections. Proof of the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act and its subsequent amendments has been the astonishing jump in black registration and voting particularly in Southern states like South Carolina, and the increased number of black elected officials in most of these covered 24 states or parts thereof.

The ploy to repeal the Act can gain enough steam to either cause the Congress to fail to extend the Act or make it operable in all 50 states.

Underlying either change is the fear the blacks or other minorities would gradually dilute the strength of the conservatives. For without the Act, The Federal government would lose the power of oversight and stringent evaluation of changes in voting procedures.

And if the Act's provisions would be extended, the number of observers from the Justice Department would have to equal the population of Baltimore. During the first ten years of the Voting Rights Act, more than 6,000 observers were sent to covered jurisdictions.

In the latter case, the cry to cut out bureaucratic red tape could well strain the present personnel of the Justice Dept. and with government job freezes, would ultimately dilute the effectiveness of the extended Act.

Coming to a grinding halt would be the remedies for violations that include court orders, retroactive relief such as setting aside elections and awards of attorneys fees and damages.

Thus the lack of enforcement of an expanded act could set the potential voting numbers back in those hard core Southern states to conditions prior to the demonstrations, spilled blood, sweat and tears of frustration.

We must be aware that a change in the law or the lack of support in Congress to extend the law will be devastating to all the gains we have now enjoyed, with mayors of major cities, with many more state and local representatives.

When we realize most elections are based upon voting on racial lines, particularly here in Baltimore, we do have a great deal to lose without an extension.

We are indeed between a rock and a hard place when we run the risk of such great expansion that would make the Act ineffectual or the possibility of no Act at all.

PARREN MITCHELL

Killing children

By Parren J. Mitchell

I have received literally hundreds of phone calls asking what I am doing about the killing of black children in Atlanta or what the caller could do to help in that grim situation.

I certainly believe that sending money to the city government of Atlanta is helpful. The investigation into the deaths of the innocent ones is extremely costly. I just consponsored a bill in the Congress to give the City of Atlanta $1.5 million to help pay for the cost of the investigation which has been going on so long.

I also believe it is good for our communities across the nation to show solidarity, sympathy and support for our brothers and sisters in Atlanta. The prayer vigils, the wearing of ribbons, the neighborhood groups declarations of concern, all of these are good, positive signs of support and must be continued.

However, this is a time to remain calm despite the anger and disgust we feel toward this loathesome creature (or creatures) who takes the lives of innocent black children. We want the murderer(s) apprehended, tomorrow if possible. Bear in mind though that we are obviously dealing with a psychotic, a sick mind, and therefore the patterning of this kind of criminal mind is much more difficult to sort out than would be the pattern of crime in a series of bank robberies committed by non-psychotic persons. It took many months for the New York police to catch the "Son of Sam," a psychotic killer. It took many months for the British police to catch the 1980's Jack the Ripper. He too was a psychotic killer.

We must be awfully careful not to encourage citizens to become so frustrated and so tense that they start to take the law in their own hands. We recently read of the sad circumstance in which a man tired into another who was rumored to be messing around with some children. The man tired upon was not involved in any wrong behavior. The man who tired the gun was arrested and now awaits trial on several charges.

Third important thing is to urge people to refrain from giving false misleading information to the police. There are some weird, ghoulish personality types who believe it is amusing to call the police and claim to be the killer, or to call them and name a person they know as the killer as a joke or as retribution against that person. That is sick behavior. It is also criminal behavior which can carry very heavy penalties.

The killer (or killers) will be caught. Inevitably the psychotic criminal betrays himself by a mistake, a slip, no matter how small. He (they) will be tried and convicted. Meanwhile, let us protect our children by putting them on a regular schedule, being with them as often as possible if they go out, by talking with them to guarantee positive reactions to the completely justifiable parental demands put on them for their own safety.

I cannot help but close this column without referring to the climate that motivates and encourages psychotic violence. The violence of racism, the violence of television and the movies, the violence of war and militarism, all of these inevitably get reflected in individual behavior to a greater or lesser degree. Obviously the psychotic who kills our children in Atlanta has been affected to a greater degree.

Now is the time for us to begin to act against the crime inducing climate. Is it impossible to have a society in which peace is more valued than war and militarism gentle kindness is more publicized than wanton violence, and in which racism is finally destroyed?

—LETTERS—

'The best thing since ice cream'

Dear AFRO:

"Buy In, Buy Us" is probably the best thing since ice cream for black businesses in Baltimore.

The new Reagan administration will teach us more than we've ever wanted to know about dependency on non-black business enterprises in Baltimore and everywhere. Minority business ownership is crucial to any substantial degree of independence that we will achieve.

The eventual buying-selling corporation among blacks in our city and elsewhere will be strengthened when black businesses realize that they, too, have a responsibility to offer and provide the finest quality goods and services to the buying public.

Most black Baltimoreans prefer to use black businesses but not at a risk of higher prices, uneven quality, etc. Occasionally, black consumers in Baltimore like to hear "thank you" from those black businesses that we patronize. Black business must take a retrospective view.

LOUIS CONEY, JR.

Another round for the landlords

Dear AFRO:

In the midst of all the public fanfare and publicity over the city council hearings for rent control, the continued public pressure for rent control, and the recent arrests at city council for rent control, one small but important item has been overlooked. The rent control campaign received in September of 1980 through its legal coubsel at the Legal Aid Bureau a bill for Cedlair Corporation for over $2,000 in court costs for the Question K issue.

Cedlair Corp. challenged in court the passage of last year's Question K and successfully had it thrown out. For all the efforts to organize and express the wishes of 74,000 people who voted for rent control, an additional $2,000 must now be paid by the campaign or else a levy will be placed against the people's homes and salaries. This money comes to 25 percent of the Campaign's entire election budget, but is less than one-half of one percent of Keep Baltimore Best's overflowing budget of an estimated one-half million dollars.

Cedlair Corp is one of over sixty subsidiary companies of Regional Management Inc., This gigantic landlord owns about 3,000 rental units in the city alone, fought aggressively against rent control in the elections and at the city council hearings, and contributed over $5,000 to the opponents of rent control.

In Baltimore city-keeper of the nation's highest rate of substandard rental units, provider of few rental options with its second lowest vacancy rate, second highest breeder of the unemployed and perpetrator of an ever increasing number of people who fight to stave off impoverishment—this further economic imposition by Cedlair on tenants makes the struggle for rent control all the more just.

DAVID KANDEL

Black colleges

Dear AFRO:

Thank you very much for the time and effort and assistance you gave in promoting the interest of the black colleges over the past two weeks. Your conference with the governor and the leadership of the General Assembly was most certainly beneficial. Within two days after you met with these groups, the Senate Committee voted to restore twelve of the eighteen positions which had been recommended for abolishment.

We are encouraged that citizens of your stature have become knowledgeable of the great contribution black colleges have made to the American society.

CALVIN W. BURNETT

No university mergers!

Education Commissioner Sheldon Knorr has a fixation about the state's historically black colleges.

He obviously feels they are obsolete and moves, we suppose with the State Board of Higher Education's blessing, whenever he feels the political climate is favorable with yet another scheme to merge, consolidate or otherwise phase out institutions under predominantly black leadership.

Knorr cannot help but know just how violently opposed our community is to this diminution of the role of institutions which grow out of our community and directly serve our community.

Our conclusion is that Knorr and the State Board of Higher Education simply do not care about our needs, wishes and priorities.

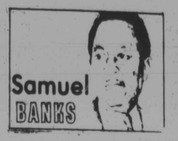
Perhaps Knorr would do well to listen to the head of the Maryland NAACP, Nathaniel Smith, who this week said the civil rights group is "firmly opposed" to any plans to merge two of the state's predominantly black colleges with predominantly white schools.

Smith also said the group is against the "destruction of black colleges, whether it be in the name of desegregation or economy," and added that "in the days ahead" the NAACP would release alternative plans for state school consolidations, and would also sponsor a demonstration in Annapolis next Monday night to protest the consolidation proposal.

The AFRO strongly supports the NAACP's position and for ourselves, and, for our community, we say "no mergers, no consolidations."

YOU KNOW BECAUSE YOU READ THE AFRO

A NEW DAY BEGUN



At a time when powerful, malevolent and far-reaching socio-economic forces have been unleashed against 31 million black people, it is most unfortunate that Morgan State University, as in the past, is unable because of pervasive internal difficulties to mobilize its intellectual and human resources in the ongoing struggle for blacks and the poor in this region. It is appropriate at this time to address frankly and openly what is needed now at Morgan.

One matter is clear and pliable to rational and thoughtful observers of the situation at Morgan and that is the grievous and painful reality of President Andrew Billingsley, bereft of the vital support of faculty, students, alumni and community patrons, remaining at Morgan propped up by his Board of Regents. The institutional goals and objectives of Morgan will not be achieved through administrative fiat and ukase.

The recent encounters of Dr. Billingsley and members of his staff in Annapolis indicate that members of the Maryland Senate Committee on Budget and taxation charged with budgetary and legislative oversight responsibilities are not going to be moved by oratory and emotional pronouncements, but rather by hard data germane to how the Morgan administration has expended public monies in the past fiscal year and how it intends to utilize public monies projected for the future. Dr. Billingsley, in fact, should let the record speak for itself and end the ignominious public exhortations.

It is painfully abundant that Morgan State University is in stagnation. A ubiquitous absence of trust by a majority of students, faculty, classified staff, alumni and community patrons dictates that Dr. Billingsley, for the sake of Morgan's growth and development, should resign.

The recent votes of no confidence by the faculty, students and classified staff and the widespread a pathy and demoralization at Morgan provide graphic and controvertible evidence that Morgan will not move forward under the present leadership.

Additionally, Dr. Billingsley's proposals to reduce the faculty by 30 positions, even with a "phase in" period, will exacerbate an already troubled an inflammed state of affairs. It is clear that state legislators, for a variety of reasons, will not Provide additional monetary resources for Morgan unless it can be demonstrated by Morgan's administration that it has been effective and judicious stewards during the Past fiscal year of public monies.

A propped up presidency at MSU

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

"SHE CHANGED the whole city of Baltimore. She taught us a whole lot we did not know about dealing with people.

"Carolyn Stith will be hard to replace. She was a radiant light in a vast darkness. She was the driving force in our lives and the lives of countless Baltimoreans."

The above quotations from Mayor Schaefer and others are only a few of the tributes given Miss Carolyn Stith at her funeral Tuesday night (March 10).

AS TV CAMERAS flashed and mourners numbering over 2,000 persons gathered inside Waters AME Church, 417 N. Aisquith St. and overflowed into the surrounding streets, the last rites for the beloved Eastside citizen went down in history.

Many of those present said there has been nothing like it in memory.

Persons in wheel chairs, on crutches, the poor and the sick crowded in all day and all night.

ALONG WITH THEM were city, county, state and national elected officials, the Mayor, City Council, City Hall, the Legislative Black Caucus, U.S. Senators and Congressmen.

AND, members of Carolyn's family, the largest black family in the United States, that Virginia family from Lunenberg County and surrounding counties, the Stiths, Taylors, Shells, Bridgeforths, Williamses, Blackwells, Hicks, Bridgeforths, Hensons, Morgans, the Rodwells and others.

THE NOTED FAMILY includes the survivors of Policeman Calvin Rodwell, who was slain in Baltimore while serving as a cab driver; the Calvin Rodwell for whom the school at Liberty Hights and Hillsdale is named. Calvin's funeral also included countless mourners and family members as did the school dedication.

CAROLYN DIED unexpectedly on March 6. She was found dead in her Eastside home, 825 N. Central Ave. A friend to whom she was talking on the phone, notified a physician that Carolyn seemed to have had a seizure. The door was locked. Carolyn was alone.

RELATIVES STATE if entrance had been made in time, Carolyn's life may have been saved.

BY THE TIME the tragic news had spread across the nation, the large family members took airplanes, buses and trains and got in their cars for Baltimore.

THEY CAME from the West Coast, Midwestern states and Va., Md., N.Y., N.J., Dela., D.C., N.C., S.C., Va., Conn., Mass., Fla., Ala., Pa., to name a few of the nearest states.

Mrs. Betty Shell Graves, member of the family, quoted the Baltimore relatives as saying the flowers, telegrams and courtesies of "people from everywhere" flowed in and are still coming.

NOT ONLY was the throng at the wake and last rites but the following morning, Wednesday, hundreds accompanied the family to the graveside at Arbutus Memorial Park.

A SINGULAR EVENT following the Tuesday night funeral, was the catered dinner at Dunbar High Community School dining room not far from the Waters Church. Everyone was fed a full course dinner and "they kept coming far into the wee hours" with plenty for all.

THE FAMILY graciously received everyone and greeted close kin they had not seen since the 1979 reunion at the Convention Center in Baltimore.

THOSE WHO DID NOT or could not be present called the AFRO to learn more about Carolyn Stith. Here it is.

CAROLYN was born Jan. 22, 1944, the third child of William and Ernestine Stith of Lunenberg County, Va.

Surviving are her parents, now of Baltimore; brother Archer Leon, two sisters, Marie Williams and Maurice Ruth; grandmother, Mary A. Bridgeforth; nieces, Yvette Williams and Tselane Stith, all of Baltimore; countless aunts, uncles, cousins and the other relatives of the famous Virginia family.

THE FAMILY is presently planning the 1981 reunion for Baltimore's Convention Center this autumn. In charge are James Bridgeforth, the retired Druid Station postmaster and Betty Shell Graves.

CAROLYN ATTENDED THE Baltimore public schools and Morgan State University from which she was graduated in June 1969.

She received early religious upbringing at Taylor's Chapel in Lunenberg County, Va. where she was baptized at the age of eight.

Being a resident of Baltimore, making it and East Baltimore her cause and life, she was truly one of Baltimore's Best.

CAROLYN belonged to several groups and organizations throughout Baltimore City and the State of Maryland. Included but not limited to are the Eastside Democratic Organization, State Central Committee, Central Maryland Health Systems Agency, East Baltimore Women's League, Eastside Coalition, East Baltimore Community Corporation and Women's City-Wide Coalition, East Baltimore Community Corporation and Women's City-Wide Committee for the Delinquency Prevention.

After graduating from Morgan, she was employed as a Street Club Worker for the Department of Recreation.

She was later promoted to the Director - Mayor's Representative of Kirk Multi-Purpose Center under several administrations of Mayor Schaefer and the Baltimore City Council.

THE REV. John W. Duckett, Waters church pastor, gave the eulogy Tuesday night. Jean Spence gave acknowledgements of the obituary. Music was by the Sorority Singers and soloists Doris Grey and Jesse Newsome.

Among those giving tributes were Mayor Schaefer, City Council VP DuBurns, other members of the Council; the State Central Committee, the Legislative Black Caucus, U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, Francis Reynolds of the Kirk Center, the East Baltimore Community Corp., Dunbar High family, Julia Woodland, principal; the Stith family; CCB administrators.

THE STATE CENTRAL Committee served as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were members of Carolyn's many organizations.

FLORAL BEARERS were

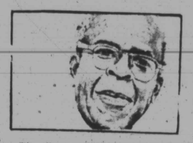
(Continued on Page 27)

FOR ALL WE KNOW

CAROLYN STITH
1944-1981

G. JAMES FLEMING

Signs of changing times



The Reagan agendum for the United States is one sign that things are changing, just as Roosevelt's "New Deal" also ushered in changes which meant that "America will never be the same as it was prior to 1932."

But, all the changes are not being energized or manipulated from Washington, nor are they being inspired either by the White House or by the Congress. Some of these changes come from the presence of more lawyers than ever in the society. In present- day America everybody seems to be suing everybody else. As someone recently observed, "We Americans now sue at the drop of a hat." Most of these suits, of course, are very valid and intended to correct real injuries and to give orderly settlement to disputes.

Our grandmothers and great grandmothers could scarcely understand, however, that men and women "of the cloth" - of all denominations—are now being sued for "malpractice," just as physicians have been sued for damages for some years now.

A few young people have also sued their parents, for not bringing them up satisfactorily, while others have sued the colleges from which they were graduated because, he holds, they were not firm enough with him when he was a minor, did not discipline him enough, and did not insist on his doing his homework, among other obligations. As a result of his parents' laxity, he is a misfit and cannot hold a job. This young man seeks damages against his father and mother for their negligency to bringing him up.

In another part of the country, two former college football players are suing their alma mater because, while they have their impressive diplomas, they have discovered that they did not secure an education in anything but playing football. These loters of the pigskin have found, to repeat, that they are near helpless as to English and figures. (Some critics say they were exploited—other wonder whether they would have complained if they had made the "pros").

Whichever way we view it, these kinds of suits for damages against clergymen and clergywomen, against counsellors, and against colleges—indicate a new wrinkle, a change in attitude and in value systems in the contemporary society. Nobody and nothing is sacred.

It may not be too far away before bishops will be suing archbishops and cardinals suing the Pope—and what about nuns suing those people who "brainwashed" them into becoming "sisters"?

Change is inevitable for better or worse, inevitable as death and taxes. More is sure to come, and would come, even if Ronald and Nancy Reagan did not win the White House.

Our family affairs

By Marion M. Banfield

What pressures make parenting so difficult? The public media, television, radio, magazines and newspaper have tremendous influence on what is important, what is acceptable, what is expected.

Take for instance, violence. The television networks present violence as a way of coping, be it cartoons, love stories, mysteries, news reports or advertising.

In international affairs, we are being pressured to believe that violence or annihilation of those with different ideas is an acceptable means of influencing or controling human thought and life.

Parents who want their children to avoid violence as a means of settling difference or of settling problems are often discouraged about maintaining and passing on their values about peaceful settlements and daily human rights.

Parents who want respect and affection are often confused about gaining those values without the fears and punishments from their own childhood experiences.

With the increase of single parenthood is the accompanying loneliness, anger, frustration, that interrupts the feelings of love, of independence of dependence, the struggles of being enough of a good parent.

Religion is a source of comfort to some, a source of punitive control to many, a bitter memory to others. How then can morals and standards of right and wrong be determined?

Few of us seek a simple answer. Reality won't allow that luxury.

That is why there is an increase in classes and groups where fathers and mothers meet to talk about, to increase their skills in good parenting. Through these parent groups, men and women strengthen each other in their determination to develop an environment for decent human survival.

Family life styles have changed. Family love is still fundamental for survival.

Tony Brown's Journal

The slavery in sport recruiting

Just over a century ago if you paid a substantial amount of money or otherwise, you could legally own another human being and demand the uncontested services of this person for any duty, at any time, for any purpose. The situation in most instances was such that the owner had little or no concern for his property other than to keep it fit so that it could perform an intended job. It was called slavery.

Today, the policy of recruiting outstanding black athletes for college sports could fit the same description. For decades black high schools have been the stalking grounds for college recruiters who are looking for that one youngster who could score touchdowns or grab rebounds with almost superhuman ability.

You would think that, once found, it would be the beginning of a golden opportunity for a black youngster whose education would have otherwise stopped at high school; a chance for recognition, media exposure and most of all, a chance to graduate from a major university — to be well-educated.

These well-intentioned rags to riches episodes happen frequently, however the golden opportunities are for the recruiting colleges' athletics department, rarely the average player. According to one critic, by the time the young athlete has finished his first conversation with the recruiter, he's been shackled to a four-year pact that seeks to exercise only his brawn, never his brain.

A few years ago, Dr. Charles Smith resigned from his job as executive assistant director of athletics at the University of Pittsburgh because of what he perceived as the unfair treatment of black athletes by the university and its athletic department. To call attention to the problem, Dr. Smith compiled a four-year study which monitored the progress of black athletes from freshman year to graduation. His findings revealed that few, if any, of the athletes would graduate in four years.

The reason: The new student athlete is counseled by a university representative who has already been briefed on the need for this student to maintain a 2.0 or C grade average. Dr. Smith points out that the minimum amount of hours necessary for sports eligibility is usually not enough to graduate. They're counseled to take minimum academic loads, which is 12 hours. And by simple calculation, 12 hours over 8 terms, which is four years, gives you 94 hours. If the student does not pass all 12 for 8 terms, going in summers and year-round study patterns still won't graduate the person. He's always in a catch-up position. So, you see, it's a situation that they have not educated young people to understand. I am not sure that counselors and coaches understand or care because the primary interest for a coach is to win.

Perhaps the antithesis of this dilemma is John Thompson, the much-acclaimed and outspoken black basketball coach of the Georgetown University Hoyas in Washington, D.C. Thompson holds as an important prerequisite to a spot on his team, talent and discipline. His interpretation of that is simple: work like heck on the court — as a team — and don't fall behind in school trying.

Athletes, in particular blacks, have to get away from the mentality that somebody's going to come and save them and take care of them and look after them," he says. That a large part of responsibility has to be that they have got to prepare themselves also for their educational responsibilities as well as to prepare themselves athletically.

The uniqueness of coach Thompson is however, the fact that he provides what he calls "supportive services" for his players, which entails a constant monitoring of their academic progress by his assistant, Mary Fenlon. Her purpose is to insure that the players don't fall behind in school, but not, as Thompson puts it, to do term or to hold anyone's hand.

And it results are the true test of effectiveness, then you have to say that coach Thompson's method works. Of a total 27 players that he has coached, significantly, 33 have graduated.

The belief that the best way to escape the ghetto is through athletics, doesn't hold water for the vast majority who try it. But on the other hand, if a young Person will not accept some Personal responsibility, he is more than a willing collaborator gambling with his most precious possession — his life.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, is shown every Sunday, on WBAL - TV Channel 11 at 3:00 p.m.

—MORE LETTERS—

'Buy In, Buy Us'—more info needed

Dear AFRO:

In the interest of the unification of the Baltimore black community the concepts behind the HUB "Buy In-Buy Us" campaign like those of Cope '83, are long overdue in the area of practical application. There has been so much rhetoric and too little action that the mass community is predictably skeptical. However, an opportunity has come and gone which could have done much to dispel much of that skepticism.

The special AFRO supplement saluting "a dynamic new black economic campaign" urges the black community to "support, participate in Buy In-Buy Us week!" As one of the few black communications media in Baltimore, it is encouraging to see the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN once again in the forefront of the black struggle. However, an important community service was half done with the insertion of the black business guide in this issue. Where were the addresses and telephone numbers of the businesses listed? How can we in the community support and participate in this campaign when we do not know where these businesses are and how to contact them? Could not the AFRO have distributed within the supplement a copy of the 1980-81 Minority Business Directory? This would have not only served the true interests of the community but also improved the image of the AFRO in the community.

With this in mind it seems logical to question whether the black community at large really knows what Buy In-Buy Us is all about. Except for the AFRO supplement and public service announcements on WEAA, where else were HUB brochures? At the Arena Playhouse this weekend? At the Ritz? At the Soul Shack? At any of the activities and functions where black people congregate? Every black churchgoer should have walked out with this brochure after every service on Sunday.

How can we support and participate when vital information is not disseminated on a mass scale? Does not the success of this campaign or any other depend upon the black community having access to the information and knowing how and where to use it?

The AFRO and HUB have sponsored a noble concept but unless they better inform the total black community, they will not effectively receive total community involvement.

R. M. RAY