Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The budget vote

Sometimes even when you know your battle is lost you must fight to the bitter end, pick yourself up, gather your tattered banners, regroup and fight anew, true to the cause.

Only four of the black lawmakers representing us in the House of Delegates, obviously, understand that sometimes good politics for the people is not politics that necessarily wins.

Delegates Sylvania Woods, Nat Exxum, Wendell Phillips and Frank Conaway understand this.

They refused to vote for a horrendous budget cutting program that the House leadership in absolute disregard for the needs of the citizens of Maryland, of all races and creeds, has rammed through.

In a frenzy to outdo Ronald Reagan as a hit man against those in need, Maryland's House slashed $57 million from the state's budget, money lost which will do grievous harm in the area of human resources aid and other people-oriented services.

State Sen. Tommie Broadwater, looking at the havoc the House of Delegates has tried to wreak, said "It's not the cuts themselves but where they have been applied that demand our attention and outrage. He, as does State Sen. Clarence Blount, sees unimaginable hardships ahead for their constituents.

We have no rational explanations for why the remaining 14 black lawmakers in the House voted for such a "let them eat cake" budget.

We know they probably feel they have reasons for voting against the best interests of their communities and will speak much rehtoric about the intricacies of legislative politics and process.

We are prepared for this verbal smog.

Believing firmly that what goes around comes around we would not be at all surprised if some of our present lawmakers who supposedly represent our best interests because of their budget votes will, in 1982, find themselves eating cake also.

The president's secretary

Only in America, unfortunately, could an attractive Austrian young woman emigre, reach our shores and land a job as personal secretary to the president of the United States . . . and also end up owning dilapidated property rented by black tenants who complain of lack of heat and other vitals.

Miss Helene Von Damm, President Reagan's secretary, owns property in Baltimore's central city.

She has explained to the press that she purchased the houses, on Abbottson and Garrison Streets, as investments in 1979. She has never seen the properties.

James Brady, the President's press officer, has told the AFRO that Miss Von Damm and other Reagan aides who have also bought property in Baltimore "are committed to decent housing."

Somehow we do not find Brady's statements reassuring.

Miss Von Damm's boss seems hell-bent on making sure that no sorely needed federal money will reach neighborhoods in need of repair as is surely the case with her housing purchases.

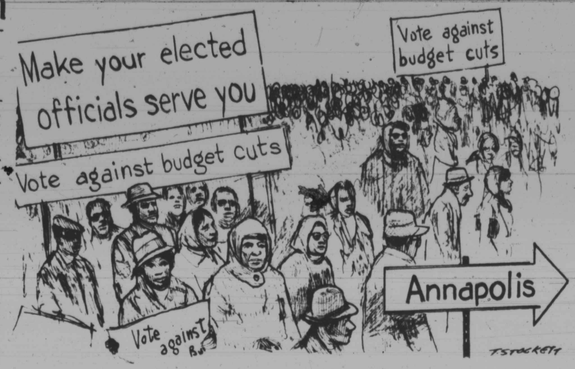
Perhaps Miss Von Damm is close enough to the President to point out the need for urban revitalization, a concept he avoids, using her own Baltimore neighborhood as an example.

But then she would first have to come and take a look at the houses in which she has invested.

Following this she would do well to see that her black tenants are provided with furnaces that work.

If these Reagan aides are any indication of the new administration's actual concern for the truly needy, we are in for some tough times.

Helene Von Damm



MADELINE MURPHY

Like Kleenex?

In the manner of the old shell game of now you see it now you don't, the findings recently of a community college task force on what to do with that valuable land near the Inner Harbor, known as the William V. Lockwood Building, Harbor Campus of the Community College of Baltimore, shows:

1. The disdain of the Schaefer administration when choosing between people and property;

2. The hypocrisy of the Board of Trustees of that school in reversing itself from a year ago to keep the Harbor campus and Lockwood Building intact;

3. The burial of a structure honoring the black pioneer of the whole concept of the Harbor campus; and

4. The lust for profit at the expense of the education of inner city kids who happen to be poor, black and anxious to move into the mainstream where technology and competence are king.

It becomes clear that last year when the mayor's plan to raze the building ran afoul of public protest and many legal hurdles, that the eight-member task force appointed at the same time, became the mayor's rubber stamp, to get by any means necessary this valuable piece of land.

The Board of Trustees of CCB should still know that under the Higher Education Facilities Act, the federal government contributed almost $1 million for its construction and that CCB must be maintained, land and building, for educational use for 20 years or more—in Mayor Schaefer's eighth term, unless he cozies up to Reagan's budget slashers to amend the law.

Further, the State Board of Community Colleges, as well as the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland, must approve such change.

Yet, the president as well as secretary-treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Rafael Cortada, claims that this move is in the college's interest—in fact was initiated by the college. But the broad hand of Mayor William D. Schaefer is all too obvious.

Just as Thurgood Marshall, first black associate justice of the Supreme Court, stands at the back door of the Federal Building, just as the monument to the black soldier focus away from the flow of traffic—so that you risk an accident if you look at it—just as our greatest black abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, is hidden away on Morgan State University's campus, now a monument to a man who has forged new paths for black and poor kids in education will be covered up and ultimately obliterated.

This, in a city where sixty percent of the desidents are black, makes you wonder how much we blacks care about those who are exemplary role models.

Why must we be like Kleenex, disposable after the first blow, here today and gone tomorrow?

In an effort to make Baltimore a commercial profit-making bonanza, Mayor Schaefer, enraptured by his own publicity, is no different from Ronald Reagan in his coatemptfor poor people. In building monuments, to himself as well as profit's to Jolly, Rouse, Whiting Turner, banks, etc., crowding and concrete caverns are gradually replacing green grass, trees, where there are fewer places of contemplation and peace, where heightened pollution dulls the spirit. The campus of CCB could be such a downtown oasis.

Further, when we swallowed the premise that Harborplace would be a mecca for the black unemployed, did we really believe it?

Will we believe that the same will happen with this development scheme of high rise office towers, shops, hotels and recreational areas?

Where will be the lasting job opportunities for the programs now being offered at the Lockwood Building, like electronics, auto mechanics, air conditioning, refrigeration, drafting, computer technology? Who's fooling whom?

Just look at Harborplace today. The exorbitant rents have scared away black enterpeneurs. The work force is mostly white. The prices are out of reach for most of the citizens of Baltimore City, those it was intended to hire. The omni-present police, an outward sign of an inward fear of the have-nots, loom.

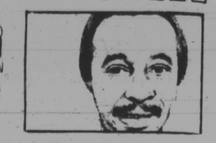
In looking for places to build, what about the valuable land that has been developed that has not been profitable, like the Science Center? Build over that. Or what about the Aquarium, build around that, or the old Baltimore Gas and Electric building.

But to emasculate, to rape the community college for all the purpose of making money, with questionable educational value? To hypocritically degrade the achievements of a black man, Wilham V. Lockwood, by building over the monument to him is contemptible.

We must demand our part in building Baltimore, that our monuments be held inviolate, tangible visible inspiration to Baltimore's future generations.

PARREN MITCHELL

Congress is equally guilty



The Reagan administration's budget cuts and callous attitudes towards minorities richly deserve the criticism they are getting. Yet, we must bear in mind that the Congress is not only in lock-step with Reagan on the proposed budget cuts; it is "out in front" of the administration in displaying contempt for minorities and the poor.

I selected at random a handful of resolutions introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. Of the seven bills selected randomly, only one is a respectable proposition. That one good bill is H.R. 2316— abill requiring the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to provide funds for extraordinary investigation expenses relating to the recent murders of black children. This bill should be supported.

The others are cruel, punitive legislative proposals.

Senate Bill 270 would empower Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to select new licenses for ownership of radio and television stations to be selected by lottery. This would negate the recent FCC charchanges designed to facilitate minority ownership of radio and television stations. This bill deserves a swift defeat.

Congressman Ron Mottl, a Democrat from Ohio, has introduced a resolution which would bar federal courts from ordering busing to achieve school desegregation. The resolution calls for signatures on a discharge petition in an effort to get a vote in the House of Representatives on his pernicious resolution. This discharge petition effort must, at all costs, be defeated.

House Joint Resolution 89 is a bill which would force a balanced federal budget by requiring that the Senate and the House muster a two-thirds majority vote or gain approval from three-fourths of the states to pass a budget resolution which would anticipate a deficit. Budgets are balanced on the backs of the poor and working poor. This legislation should be stopped, if at all possible, in the subcommittee of jurisdiction.

House Resolution 2163 would amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act by giving the president additional power to impound funds appropriated by the Congress for various programs. This would permit Reagan to do the same kinds of things that Nixon did when he impounded Congressional funds for housing. H.R. 2163 must be killed.

H.R. 1034 is to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires that workers on federally funded construction projects be paid no less than the locally prevailing wage for work of a similar nature. The purpose of the Davis-Bacon Act was to remedy the problems created by unscrupulous contractors who won federal contracts by paying extremely low wages. Black workers were the group most exploited. We must fight against repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act.

Last is H.R. 1767— a bill alleged to reform the food stamp program, but a bill which would in fact emasculate the program. The so-called reforms are:

- Partially restore the purchase requiremen!
- Establish a gross income limit with work allowance.
- Establish state workfare programs
- Eliminate strikers' benefits
- Eliminate overlapping of the school lunchfood stamp programs
- Eliminate outreach activities
- Individualize allotments
- Eliminate "dine-out" privileges
- Tighten parent work registration State workfare? No benefits to those on strike? This wicked piece of legislation must be soundly defeated.

Watch and fight against the Reagan proposals, but also watch out and fight against the bad proposals coming from the Congress. We are in a situation in which the fox is in the chicken coop and the wolf is at the door.

Tony Brown's Journal

Blacks in the political process

A series of events has raised new questions about the future of the nation's blacks in the political process.

The Democratic Party suffered a nationwide landslide defeat in the 1980 elections and blacks were the only group to hold to party loyalty, associating themselves politically as losers.

Although a minority of blacks is Republican, its sidewon. However, blacks generally associate the GOP with "trickle down" politics and do not see it as a viable alternative to the Democrats.

Again, the idea of an independent black party is being offered to this apparent dilemma. But its critics call it a solution worse than the problem.

On a special television program, "Can a Black Political Party Work?" I analyzed the pros and cons of a black political party and conducted a straw poll of the viewers of QUBE, Warner Amex Cable's two-way system, which allows the viewer at home to respond to questions on the issue.

QUBE's dramatic fusion of computer technology and cable television allows me to be in direct contact with up to 25,000 households during the program. I ask these viewers in Columbus, Ohio questions and they "talk back" by touching a button on their console. The computer tallies their responses and displays the results, all in a matter of seconds.

Of those responding, 55 percent did not believe that a national black political party would work. But political scientist Ron Daniels, chairperson of the founding convention of the National Black Independent Political Party, disagreed with the home audience.

"I think that we need a black political party," Daniels responded. In fact, we must have ablack political party. The important thing to know about the kind of party that's being formulated is that it is not a traditional party. It is not a party like the Democrats or Republicans. It is a party that will focus in on institutional development, community organizing as well as electoral politics.

"We need an organization that can deal at the grassroots in terms of community organizing and building institutions, new power bases, at the local levels in the black community. That is not being done and I think this party will address itself to that question."

Daniels also felt that the formation of the party is a response to the declining progress of blacks in America and a faltering faith in black leadership and existing black organizations.

James Hicks, executive director of the New York Voice, took a different stance: "I don't think that we need a black political party. I think that we need to get together ourselves and work within the existing parties, throw our weight around and make ourselves felt."

To gauge the impact of the discussion on the viewers, I asked at the beginning of the program, "Can a black political party work?" A significant 48 percent of those responding said no. Sixteen percent believed that a black political party would succeed and 36 percent were not sure.

After hearing the arguments on the issue, the QUBE viewers were again asked if they thought that a black political party would work. They remained opposed to a black party: an even larger majority— 55 percent—said no to the question. The yes responses, however, rose to 27 percent while the nots dropped to 18 percent.

The majority of the respondents registered pessimism about the success of a black political party. While the doubt is understandable, the need to help ourselves should strongly override this inertia. We embarrassed ourselves in 1976 by supporting a man who refused to re-card us and followed the losers into the losers' circle in the 1980 presidential sweepstakes.

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

JUST THINKING

Black colleges struggle on

By Al Sweeney

It has been almost 34 years since the Warren Court on May 17, 1947, to be exact, handed down the school desegregation decision.

In calling for the end of school desegregation "with deliberate speed" the court headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren was hailed as taking an action that rivaled that of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

One of the old saws is that "with every action comes a reaction."

Some 34 years after the High Court ruled "the separate schools could not be equal," the problem of school integration remains a touchy problem. Not in the South, where housing was more or less integrated over the years, but in the North, where communities are separated by ethnic housing clusters.

No longer are the public school systems designating white schools and black schools. But, some 34 years after May 17, 1954 decision, public schools are as segregated as ever.

In Cleveland, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles among other cities the federal courts are monitoring the desegregating of public schools by busing pupils in order to obtain a racial mix.

The busing has brought about hostility. Overlooked is the fact that in every state in the union, where county schools are consolidated there is the daily busing of thousands of pupils.

While there is considerable passion being generated over the busing of pupils for school mixing, the so-called end to segregated schools has become a problem for the historically black colleges and universities.

There are 111 colleges and universities that are historically black and predominantly black — all members of an organization called NAFEO. It is an acronym for National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

The group will hold its sixth annual meeting at the Washington Hilton, Hotel beginning Friday. Serving as executive director of NAFEO is Sam Myers, former president of Bowie State College.

The theme of these years meeting that will attract 2,000 persons is mainstreaming blacks. The meeting will present 30 papers dealing with "Problems." Precedents and Procedures" as suggested guidelines for black institutions to get blacks into the mainstream of American life.

Myers points out that among the biggest obstacles facing historically black institutions is one of image.

There are integration purists who claim that black colleges are a relic of the past segregationist society.

Many are under legal attack.

However, Myers states that the critics of black colleges fail to address the true aim of integration and that is to provide black students an equitable share of the professions such as lawyers, doctors, scientists, merchants, engineers et al in this society.

In every segment, blacks are greatly underrepresented.

While black colleges, Myers points out, only constitute 3% of the institutions of higher learning, they produce 40 percent of the black recipients of bachelor's degrees.

Myers states that among the revealing documents to be presented at this year's conference is a paper to be presented by Jacqueline Fleming, a Harvard graduate, who conducted a research study supported by a Carnegie Foundation grant.

Fleming's research involves a four-year study of what happens to a black attending a white institution as compared to what happens to a black attending a predominantly black institution.

She concludes, Myers says, that the black attending a historically black institution will experience relatively greater growth, academically, than that one attending a white institution.

How she arrives at the conclusion, I suggest that you should contact NAFEO for a copy of her research paper.

Before the conference is over, the luncheons and dinners will feature Vernon Jordan of the National Urban League; and Terrell Bell, Secretary of the Department of Education. Saturday morning there will be a panel of five successful black professionals.

They will discuss the responsibilities of a black who "has made it."

Should the successful Black merely be content to serve as a role model.

Or should the successful Black assume a posture of being a link to help other Blacks up the ladder.

Or should the successful Black take the position that involvement is not necessary.

The panelists will include: Bishop Edward Carroll, retired bishop of the United Methodist Church; Dr. Aris T. Allen, member of the Maryland State legislature and GOP political leader; Tom Sturgeon, veteran executive of the Miller Brewing Co.; D. Joan Wallace, assistant secretary of Agriculture; and James French, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the first black to hold such an office.

While the officials of the 111 black institutions grapple with strategies for survival, the Institute for the Study of Educational Policy, funded the Ford Foundation and located on the Howard Van Ness Campus, will dedicate its newest publication "Manless Mania" with a reception at the Rayburn House Building on Friday.

It deals with the issues facing black institutions and answers many questions.

Currently, sports enthusiasts are witnessing on the tube one of the positive results of desegregation. It appears that every major college team vying for NCAA honors is loaded with black basketball players.

Whether it is in Wyoming, Texas, Birmingham, North Carolina, Virginia or Boston, a black eager is in evidence.

Prior to school desegregation even the Big Ten Schools had an unwritten law against black basketball players.

Another area that has surfaced is an effort to mix the student bodies on the black and white campuses with scholarships.

White students are given scholarships to attend historically black state colleges. Myers, former president of Bowie State, confesses that he supported the policy when it first began.

But, now Myers feels that he was wrong and the practice is wrong. The whites attending the historically black schools merely skim the top off the academic offerings, while the black students attending the predominantly white colleges are being "butchered" academically, Myers insists.

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE RINGLING BROS. and Barnum and Bailey Circus really worth the money this time. Performances continue today (Friday) through Sunday March 29.

AGAIN year after year comes Mrs. Gerry Kremel, the PR lady who is probably the most pleasant person you could ever meet.

She and her family reside in Columbia in surfer when she travels around the glove with the Greatest Show on Earth.

In summer they reside in Ocean City and were formerly our neighbors at the Golden Sands. Now they have one of those dream homes on an inlet nearby.

THE CIRCUS has three aerialists, pretty black girls and many black helpers. The Wahtousies are nine feet tall and such fantastic costumes, gold necklaces beyond compare!

THIS 111th edition of Barnum and Bailey goes to Madison Square Garden for a pre-Easter engagement. The program book has a huge poster the kids will like.

RED CROSS is offering basic canoeing classes in two Baltimore County locations beginning the weekend of March 28 - 29, and continuing for six Saturdays or Sundays. There is a choice of morning of afternoon sessions.

This course is open to persons 14 years of age and older who must pass a swim test of approximately intermediate swimming ability.

For info and to register, call Red Cross Safety Services at 467-9905.

CARROLL GREENE, executive director of the Maryland Commission of Afro-American History and Culture writes:

This is just a note of thanks and appreciation for the fine job of coverage which you gave the THREE PORTRAITS CEREMONY AND BANQUET in the issue of THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN. It was a first rate job and we appreciate it very much.

ARTICLES SUCH AS YOURS WILL HELP TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE Bannekker-Douglass Museum is concerned about the whole State of Maryland and not just one region.

Again, our thanks.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Supreme Court may be asked to rule on what the citizens shall and can expect from the U.S. Government.

THIS STEP may hold back the Reagan Surgery on the programs the people of this nation should be able to have since we are all taxpayers.

THE QUESTION RISES, does the government, elected by the people, have the right to leave the people in want and deprivation?

HERE ARE SOME hard hitting warnings and predictions by the brilliant Dr. Gideon Bosker who writes in the CITY PAPER, a super newspaper:

THE ADMINISTRATION'S FEED - THE - ECONOMY, STARVE - THE - POOR program for economic recovery will be in full swing shortly.

It will most definitely be a "New Beginning," a fresh start on paring back programs that some consider already to be austere beyond the point of savagery.

Scrapper Ron, (Reagan) M.C. is proposing reductions in the Food Stamp program that, according to one U.S. Department of Agriculture officials, could range anywhere from drastic to gargantuan.

MOST ANALYSTS predict that seven to eight million people will be eliminated from the food stamp rolls.

ON THE SURFACE this war on hungry may appear to be just another senseless conserverative onslaught on poor, defenseless Americans.

But in lay terms, one could call it starvation, and the medical word most commonly used to describe the effects on this cutback is malnutrition.

NOW YOUR mother may have told you that when you're sick, you should feed a cold and starve a fever, but taking temperatures and cooling the hot heads of people who are going to be affected by this cutback is not what the axemen in Washington, have in mind. — G.D.

FOOD STAMP slashing can produce still more insidious, long-term consequences.

Children subsisting on inadequate diets during their formative years can develop subtle but permanent forms of intelectual retardation.

This is not very good for economic growth.

Of course, the reduction in Food Stamp (and school lunch) programs is part of a greater overall effort on the part of David Stockman to stimulate employment.

PERHAPS he should consider that even if there are some ayailable jobs, malnourished workers with tuberculosis will probably never make it pass the personnel office.

THERE WILL be more than enough to go around, and infections, too. Malnutrition will make poor Americans, already saddled with a disproportionately high disease burden, even more susceptible to maladies such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, and complications of pregnancy.

THIS MEANS we can expect to see a lot of hot heads, sweats and chills in those Americans living below the poverty line.

WE CAN LOOK forward to an overall increase in death rates and environmentally caused cancers, more black lung, more occupational catasrophies, a rise in highway casualties as speed limits creep upward, and a marked increase in nutrition related diseases among the poor and elderly.

And, as Alan Resnais so vividly points out in Mon Oncle d'Amerique, we can expect a whole slew of soul - and body - eating maladies — heart attacks, mental illness, ulcers.

THE AUDACITY of Reagan's budgetary slashing is absolutely breathtaking. If Congress is seriously thinking of approving the cuts the Administration is proposing in health - related programs, they had better also budget for the costs of putting 225 million people under general anesthesia for at least four years.

Scrapper Ron, M.D. has taken a scalpel to just about every government program that protects people against the risk of being sick, poor, or disabled.

Moreover, by reducing social security disability payments at the same time that worker safety standards are going to be relaxed, this economic platform has all the features of a cruel adolescent double whammy prank — G. D.

ARE THE citizens of the US of A ASLEEP?

IN A meeting of leading Maryland women last week, the smart ones complained that the women of this nation are mighty quiet. They should rise up and warn congressmen from their home states if they want to be reelected, they should do away with Reagan and his slashing.

CONG. PARREN J. MITCHELL surely gave the administration a piece of his mind on TV last Sunday. He has received tremendous response from white and black citizens.

The Black Caucus alternate plan is better than Ron Reagan's Read it in the AFRO.

MITCHELL NOTES that there are thousands of letters from folks who OK the budget slashes but FEW from those who will suffer.

WHY DON'T YOU WRITE TODAY, he said. Tell Washington what you think about this awful tragedy.

BALTIMORE'S St. George Crosse is sure to get that post as an ambassador.

HE was the lone black Republican to really speak out last election and he's qualified, degree in law and and a couple of other degrees.

He comes from the Caribbean and should be chosen to go there as a diplomat.

I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES at the Mechanic is a real winner. YOU ought to see it, you parents who do not understand teenagers. It's superb.

SPRING comes in this weekend and are you glad? Somehow the heart leaps up and life is indeed made new again, despite all hardships and trials and tribulations. HAPPY SPRINGTIME to all of you.

—LETTERS—

The Diggs appointment

The Black Caucus is making its impact felt in Congress although working under conditions that at times seem forboding and overwhelming. Caucus members, despite the tremendous odds, are part of many important committees that deal with the gut issue that affect the lives and well being of those who sent them to Congress. The time has passed when our black congressional leaders have to resort to methods considered demeaning or beneath their dignity just to get things done.

The Caucus realizes that it has the tendous weigh on its shoulders as is constantly subject to close scrutiny and criticism from all quarters, black as well as white. No one is more aware of this than chairman Walter Fauntroy, our own District of Columbia congressman who has proven to be exceptionally capable and perceptive. He evinces sensitivity and understanding rarely found in leaders after they reach a certain pinnacle.

Recently the Caucus appointed former Rep Charles C. Diggs as a consultant. Diggs is in a rehabilitation program after having served a jail term on conviction of payroll kickbacks and he must be gainfully employed. Hence, the Caucus assignment, which takes advantage of his tremendous expertise and legislative knowledge, which of course will be of great value to all involved. Diggs was the first Caucus chairman. He was also chairman of a District of Columbia committee in addition to being an expert on African affairs. He has traveled all over the continent and is well respected by all black Africans because he is an avowed foe of oppression and racial discrimination.

The Diggs appointment also reveals that all politicians are not callous and insensitive and have enough compassion to come to the rescue of a fallen colleague. Of course no one condones abuse of high office, but it should be remembered that public officials are mortal and therefore vulnerable just like other human beings. Most of us are well aware of the Abscam caper that involved a well-respected senator and several gullible and venal congressmen. Several other congressmen also lost their seats because of admitted homosexual involvements. One such member was later employed a "consultant" by a congressional committee at a stipend that almost equalled his congressional salary.

The Diggs appointment is a commendable gesture because it will benefit all involved and lend a hand to a former colleague who, from all reports, is making a strenuous effort to restore himself if given a chance. The Black Caucus exists mainly from private contributions and donations and wisely dispensed some of its income to a fallen colleague under the structures of a rehabilitation program.

Senator Welcome responds

Dear AFRO:

Too many people have urged me to respond to the "John Doe" letter in your paper last week signed by Ms. Inez Chappell. I have not read it, but the person who read it to me over the phone, and all the others, wondered why anyone would stoop to attack a sick person. Why? I have given more years in the Legislature than any other person, with the least number absences.

I guess I am not supposed to have any sick days. The letter is unbelievable! That is why I have not and do not intend to read it. First, it is untrue. I am now completing my third week in the Legislature. Bills sponsored and co-sponsored this year are:

- SB 46 Motorcycle Helments.
- SB98 Maryland Indoor Air Preference Act.
- SB 117 Election Code-State Central Committee-Baltimore City Residency Requirements.
- SB 145 Contract for Public Works.
- SB 175 Baltimore City Fire and Investigations-Smoke Detectors.
- SB 191 Alcoholic Beverage Legal Age—Altered—Dual System Retained.
- SB196 Medicaid-Personal Need Allowance.
- SB356, Sales Tax Exemption-Non-Profit Organization.
- SB 368 Maryland Advisory Commission on Rape and Sexual Offenses.
- SB 620 Commission on Afro-American History and Culture.
- SB 673 Beverage Containers-Mandatory Deposits.
- SB 1002 Servicing Home Improvements-License Required.
- SB 1062 Voter Registration Record Cancellation or Changes.
- SJR 4 Voter Registration Day Public High Schools.
- SJR 15 Women's History Week
- SJR 28 Afro-American History Month
- SJR 37 Budget Plan-Utility Companies.
- SJR 52 National Council of Negro Women

My staff: Ms. Jacqueline B. Bee, secretary; Ms. Henri A. Daniels, Legislative Assistant; Mrs. Currie J. Fisher, administrative assistant and Norman Murphy, senate page worked like beavers keeping me informed daily and carrying on my work. I have been complimented by the leadership for the job they did.

Regardless of the terrible accident in my home, I have continued to carry on. Believe me when I say, I am not distributed! My work will continue. Verda F. Welcome, State Senator 10th Legislative District.

Blacks and crises

Dear AFRO:

It is sickening how black Americans turn their backs on their own people in times of crisis.

Down through the years, it has always been that way. From Marcus Garvey to the incredible Dr. Martin Luther King, and now, facing our greatest threat in this nation, our people have turned their backs on us again.

Our children are being slaughtered like wild animals in Atlanta, but the influential blacks who are in a position to help, are mute.

Not a single one has come forth to give his assistance with the exception of the little man who has a heart bigger than big—Sammy Davis, Jr.

Where are the blacks in show business, in sports, and in politics? Where is the NAACP? I can tell you where they are. They are behind the scene as usual, afraid to fight for blacks in the open. If it was left up to them, black people would still be riding in the backs of buses and trains. We would still be sitting in the back row of some theaters, being served from the back windows at eating places, and lynchings would still be a way of life for the Klan.

We are teetering and on the brink of what might develop into a holocaust in this country. The day will come when there won't be enough food to go around. Somebody has got to go.

It will be our people. With developing technology, it will be easier to kill us than it was for the Germans to kill the Jews. Why do you think they are fleeing to the suburbs, isolating us in the center city? The neutron bomb will answer that question.

In closing, let me say that the black preachers are the worst enemy to the race. They will be the Judas that betrays us.

E. ROSE

Whites get black business

Dear AFRO:

At the present time, I am rather confused on a certain subject that pertains to the black community.

I try to keep abreast of the social happenings in this city and in the past, I have attended several and hope to attend more.

My question is, why is it that with such a large black community, that blacks insist upon patronizing white establishments? I am always reading or hearing others say support the black community, but yet we still seem to always end up at "Le Fountaine Bleu's, Howard Johnsons, or Martins West.

Is it that these places give us substantial discounts or what?

There has to be some black establishment...somewhere.

ROBB BROWN

Censor board

Dear AFRO:

Thank God for Mary Avara. She has saved and kept clean the minds of Maryland's adult and teenage population from the obscenity, trash and violence, that has warped the minds of our less fortunate fifty other states.

We can all feel safe in that our state of has the purest mind of them all.

GREGG SENIOR

—MORE LETTERS—

HUB-for the elite only?

Dear AFRO:

In the interest of the working class of Baltimore's black community, I must say that it was a low blow to learn that the price of a ticket to the HUB affair was $35.

I think HUB committee people had one-hell of a nerve to ask for support from black consumers, then turn around and deliberately out-price our pocketbooks to the kick-off affair.

I say deliberately because it is no secret that the majority of us blacks do not have a lot of clout (i.e. credit cards, loan status, etc.) and do not earn $20,000 a year, not even close to that figure.

It's the same old syndrome. You want to enjoy the fruits of our labor but don't want to celebrate with us. Don't you think we get enough of that from the white man? I, for one, felt like a real ass, sitting home that Sunday evening of the banquet. Don't people like to count people like us in on the real fun too?

I know one thing, when pockets of "haves" start getting low, they will as naturally as rain turn to "have-nots" for support. Don't they understand that we are tired of being segregated from our own in instances such as this HUB thing. I will not allow my pocketbook, myself or my thoughts to be prostituted by any man, be he white, black, yellow, green, red, purple or otherwise. To hell with HUB, if blacks from every walk of life are not included in EVERY aspect of this venture.

Ticket money to social functions is very difficult for a low-income family to come up with, and that includes almost 98 percent of the black population in this town. Furthermore, there probably would have been three times the number of participants at the banquet, meaning a lot more money generated if you know anything at all about mathmatics.

Additionally, nobody wants to sacrifice quality and an outright good bargain when shopping, not even in hard times, it be cannot afford to. I still see black business people, after they have made their mint off people like us, in rich white shopping centers and such. Cardin, Grovancity, and Ann Klein never had it so good.

Only affluent blacks can afford this stuff, if they're not buying it hot from somebody. I never see any of them in thrift stores. I wonder how many Halstons, Porsches, Botanys, Rivieras, Cadillacs and Mercedes were at that banquet on Sunday evening?

C.A. FOWLER

AFRO cookie crunch

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for your support of our 4th Annual Cookie Crunch. I am sure that you are aware by now that Todd Grumstead was the winner. In three minutes he ate 85 cookies!

Your celebrity cruncher, AFRO reporter Sue Williams, crunched 40 cookies.

If you will send us your check of $80, we will see that your selected charity-agency receives a package of cookies in your name for each cookie eaten. The cost of a package of cookies is $1.50.

Please advise us of the charity-agency you would like to be your recipient. We would be pleased to choose one on your behalf.

I do hope you realize the joy your sponsoring this event brings to both our Girl Scouts and the charities receiving your cookies. All because of your caring, Scouting becomes a more vital force in this community. With utmost gratitude, we sincerely thank you.

THEA CHILDS
Executive director

Reagan's unfair cuts

Dear AFRO:

I would like to comment on President Reagan's plan to make the mandatory retirement at age 68 in order to receive full social security benefits.

I feel that the retirement age should be lowered to age 65 because people should not have to work all of their lives and still end up with nothing.

I also feel that if people did not have to work all their lives, it would give young people like me a chance to work and have the good things in life.

MELVIN BAILEY
Age 18

MAR