Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The AFRO on crime

Our increasing call for city-wide efforts by concerned individuals and groups to diminish violent street crime has, thus far, met with general approval.

By the same token, our expressions of concern about the impact of violent crime upon our community has created a degree of confusion on the part of some who simply do not want to accept the position we are taking, out of ill-founded fear or prior prejudidces.

In any event we will synthesize our current thinking on this subject as succinctly as we can.

We are of a mind that black Baltimoreans want to be able to walk through their neighborhoods and enjoy their homes however affluent or humble, with a reasonable degree of safety.

We recognize that no modern urban center can be completely crime-free, but we insist that our friends and neighbors have every right to do what must be done to ensure that crime, especially that committed by our young people, is drastically reduced.

What pushes us to this view should be abundantly clear. The great majority of victims and perpetuators of crime within our community are young and black.

To those who mistake what we are saying for a bleat for law and order are either foolish or snake-likes The snakes are trying to connect our insistance that the leadership of our community begin to assume responsibility for getting our young people to stop killing each other and their elders, with something else.

That 'something else' to particularize it for want of a better term we can call 'the Swisher syndrome.'

Our lamentable States Attorney not very subtly equates blacks with crime and as each election season nears gets himself re-elected by scaring white voters to death about his perceptions of the rampaging criminality of blacks.

Swisher promises to lock em up and throw away the key, seeks death penalties and would have our teen agers tried as adults for major crimes.

His rhetoric is right wing and potically appealing to whites even though all statistical data shows that whites have much less to fear from blacks as regards crime than they do from each other. By the same token blacks have much more to fear from each other.

To inject racism as the Swisher syndrome insinuates is not what the AFRO is about when it talks of current crime problems.

We want our leaders to begin articulating to their constituencies that the misdeeds of our young people are indeed our responsibility, that the creation of safe neighborhoods should not be left to the whim of a predominately white police force.

The fear that safe streets require brutalization of black people by law enforcement personnel is wellgrounded but again, it is the responsibility of our leadership to press for solutions to this problem.

The most sensible solution of course is to increase the number of black policemen in this predominately black city. Only political pressure intelligently applied will bring this about.

And finally, perhaps the biggest challenge of all, is the need for our religious leadership to creatively bring families back to a sense of moral values.

Part of what is nourishing crimes, especially among our young people is what Judge William H. Murphy Jr. has recently termed the "changing structure" of the family.

Since most crime in the U.S. is committed by juveniles, black and white, we sense the judge is saying that in a sense we are creating our own monsters and crying out that we know not what to do with them.

The AFRO wants Baltimore's horrendous crime rate to dramatically decline.

To that end we want fair, equitable police work.

We insist that judges mete out justice equitably. We want the life, property and health of black citizens to be rated equal with that of any other citizen. No more of this 'the killer was black, the victim was black' equals a few months in jail or a desultory investigation.

Police and citizens must begin to cast historic and justifiable animosities aside and find areas of cooperation.

Parents must have an increasing accountability for their actions and the actions of those minors under their care.

When the AFRO speaks out about crime we intend to challenge our community to get moving, thinking and doing.

Love and order/liness, not law and order.

This is where we begin, we believe of our readers share this premise.

MADELINE MURPHY

Why is this man smiling?

The Omnibus Reconciliation Act, approved on June 26, 1981, which will make $141.3 billion cuts in the budget over the next three years: $37.1 billion in 1982; $48 billion in 1983; and $56.1 billion in 1984 will affect the lives of millions of Americans. Many of them applauded the sloganeering, "government should get off our backs."

Is the following what they really thought would happen?

Major changes in the Food Stamp program will reduce spending by $1.5 billion in 1982; $2 billion in 1983; and $2.3 billion in 1984 and will affect more and more marginally employed families is well as welfare recipients, whose incomes cannot make adequate provisions for food, rent, clothing and other expenses.

So why is Ronald Reagan always grinning in public like the cat who ate the canary?

The Student Loan Program drastically cut to limit grants to $1,800 maximum, that counts Social Security benefits as part of the family contribution rather than income, will result in 1.5 million fewer students being eligible for Basic Opportunity Grants. It would force low-income students to borrow heavily in order to attend college.

So why is Reagan smiling?

Every program under ESEA except Title I programs for disadvantaged children and Title VII programs for bilingual education, would be consolidated into one education block grant.

These programs include teacher corps, teacher centers, state leadership, pre-college science teacher training and programs to help districts undergo racial desegregation.

In addition, 1.35 million middle-class college students, now attending colleges, will be denied loans because "the needs test" based upon parents' income will determine eligibility for student loans, making 1.4 million middle-class students, who do not attend public colleges, ineligible for guaranteed student loans. But these are among the so-called mandate who voted for Reagan to take government off their backs!

So perhaps it is some private joke, some macabre sense of humor that makes Reagan the ubiquitous grinning television personality.

With cuts amounting to 56 percent in child nutrition programs, three million children will stop buying school lunches, making it economical for cafeterias to remain in the program since they must be self-supporting.

And while we deplore illiteracy in our children, poorly educated, in a growing technological society, knowing we must start training children early in reading and writing, Headstart programs have been eliminated.

Yet Reagan, almost as though he were in the land of Oz, keeps smiling.

In the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program, the Reagan proposal limits the amount of money recipients can earn to $11,000 for a family of four.

It counts the earned income tax credit as income and under the proposal rather than 50 percent of earned income, the same families will be allowed only 20 percent of earned income, destroying work incentives for those recipients.

Is the tax cut proposal really fair to the poor?

Adding insult to injury, it reduces benefits by counting food stamp benefits. Pregnant women will not be eligible for AFDC benefits before their sixth month of pregnancy.

While he works a purported three-hour day, in the face of his work ethic philosophy, we are seeing two rules for Reagan and one for the rest of the working stiffs. Is it true "Reagan sleeps, while Stockman cuts?"

Evidently Reagan's well rested grin reveals that perhaps he has really swallowed the "safety net," since no one has yet been able to find it.

Futhermore, as reported in previous articles, the benefits to the wealthy, the multinationals, the tax benefits that have been broadened for them, reaffirms the assertion of Congressman Walter Faunteroy, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus that this is "the extraordinary attempt by any president in modern times to redistribute income in this country."

Now when we realize Reagan and his campaign contributors—such as Grumann, Boeing, among others—contributed $2 billion to his campaign, we know for sure why there are on the receiving end of this extraordinary redistribution of the wealth.

As the old expression goes, in light of the AWACS deal, "you scratch my back; I'll scratch yours!"

So maybe that is why this man is showing his teeth all the time. Wouldn't you too?

PARREN MITCHELL

Farm bill and food stamps

I have made public why I voted against the Farm Bill : The Food and Agriculture Act of 1981 - House Resolution 3603. Some critics argue that I should have voted "aye" because the bill contained provisions for the Food Stamp Program. Yes, the bill did contain such provisions, but what awful Provisions.

The bill extended the food stamp program for four years - until 1985 - but many people were not aware the program would be reduced in each of the years until a total of $9 billion was cut out of the food stamp program.

In 1982, $1.8 billion will be cut. In 1983, $2 billion will be slashed from the program. In 1984, the reduction amount will be $2.5 billion and in 1985, $2.6 billion will be deleted.

These cuts will be imposed, despite the fact Ronald Reagan plans to cut one million federal jobs during the course of his administration.

These cuts will be implemented, notwithstanding the fact both liberal and conservative economists agree it will be two or three years before any positive benefits can be shown through Reaganomics, and, indeed, if any benefits are shown, they will be very small.

For example, the most optimistic of the economists predict, if the program works, unemployment will be reduced by one-half of one percent. These mean cuts in the food stamp program will be imposed despite the fact even the Reagan Cabinet now admits that eight million people will be unemployed during the next 12 months; others argue the figure will reach nine million.

Who will suffer because of the $9 billion cut? First, the new law limits eligibility to those who make 130 percent of the poverty level, regardless of special needs and responsibilities.

For example, the woman who earns $18,000 a year, but whose husband is paralyzed from the neck down, would not be eligible for food stamps, despite the fact she might pay $10,000 annually in medical expenses.

Second, the present law would disqualify people on strike and their households, from receiving food stamps. This action clearly is in line with Reagan's policy which seeks to destroy the trade union movement, despite his frequent denials of such.

Third, the new law would require parents and children who live together be treated as a single household except when one parent is age sixty or older.

The Act contains numerous negative provisions.

I dread to think of the consequences of the changes in the Food Stamp Program. I was in Erie, Pa. and was told that a young woman was among the 200 employees to be fired, attempted to commit suicide by jumping out of a window.

That is tragic, and it also is equally tragic that the employees laid off may not be entitled to receive food stamps.

I have served under four presidents: Nixon, Ford, Carter, and now Reagan. No past administration has been as cruel to the poor, and the working poor as the Reagan Administration.

A day of reckoning will surely come.

Return of CCC?

Only our senior correspondent, the estimable G. James Fleming, could get away with reporting some well-intended people are urging a revival of the an Conservation Corps, the Depression era government program which saw jobless young men of all races put to work building roads, dams, parks and other public works.

The latter-day offshoot of the CCC of course is the Job Corps which has helped thousands of needy kids break the bonds of poverty and walk toward opportunity.

The Job Corps had a limited application because the Vietnam War ate up all the money that should have gone into this program. So a lot of the kids who could have used the Jobs Corp as a passport to better lives ended up dead, drugged, wounded in Nam.

About all they learned was how to kill people.

As the age of Reagan relentlessly marches on, local and state governments, faced with increasing numbers of young, jobless people, are going to be forced to think of some sort of employment impact programs.

The CCC, in romantic hindsight, does not seem so bad, but in the age of Reagan we more than slightly shudder at the thought of thousands of young low-income men (and this time, women) removed from their urban settings and put to work improving the landscape of America.

Dr. Fleming has done well to remind us of how Roosevelt's New Dealers tackled a major problem.

Reagan, however, is another proposition.

LETTERS

Let's keep our kids in school

Dear AFRO:

Robert Benjamin's article, "Dropouts" (Sunday Sun, Oct. 18), should be required reading for every educational employee of Baltimore City Public Schools.

As president of the Public School Administrators and Supervisors Association, I have seen to it that one segment of the employees is at least in receipt of a copy of the article. I had it distributed to each administrator in attendance at our Fall Conference.

The challenge is there for both teachers and administrators who care to take the time to address the dropout problem we share with the students' parents and other community support service agencies.

As a former classroom teacher, I especially challenge kindergarten, first and second grade teachers to expect children to read by making the printed word so inviting the children want to read. Research is replete with examples where high teacher expectation results in high student academic achievement.

If each principal, teacher, librarian, counselor, social worker, senior teacher, department head, and assistant principal employed by BCPS would make a pledge to become the "advocate for retention" of TWO, only two, potential dropouts, the dropout rate in our school system would be cut in half.

Because of my knowledge of the dropout problem in BCPS, I made a pledge to myself in September there would be no "pushouts" or dropouts in the school in which I am an administrator.

Each day, I go to each teacher and inquire about students' attendance. During the course of the day or during the evening, the parent is called about the child's attendance.

In large schools, I know this approach would pose a problem for the principal; however, the responsibility could be delegated and scaled down if more than 25 students in a given unit were absent.

I make this suggestion with the full knowledge of BCPS existing attendance policy of a notice being sent home to parents after a three day absence.

What frightens me about this complex problem is most people's inability to see that as individuals they can make a difference. I know I can, and I challenge other committed educators to wager me they can too!

GWENDOLYN J. COOKE
President

Conaway okays Crosse's efforts

Dear AFRO:

I read with great interest the report of the Rev. St. George Crosse's promise to organize a city-wide coalition against crime, and his criticism of black legislators as being "soft" on crime.

As to the latter claim, I think Delegate Howard Rawlings' response to the Rev. Crosse was accurate and adequate.

I suspect nothing the Rev. Crosse will unearth is not already known, and even more so by members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

Of course we do not condone crime; of course we want criminals caught and punished; but of course we want police to be law abiding; and of course it is not a simple or easy task to accomplish all these things while also providing humane and non-barbaric treatment to prisoners, be they black or white.

If the Rev. Crosse and associates can provide new, responsible answers to the crime dilemma, I for one, welcome him to the effort.

FRANK M. CONAWAY
D-40th

No to draft registration

Dear AFRO:

Instead of creating more jobs among people, the government is using the draft as an "escape valve" for employment.

On Feb. 5, 1980, the Congressional Black Caucus stated, "our young people are being told that money can be found to send them to war, but not to put them to work."

Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon) has said "registration will do nothing to enhance our military preparedness." And he is right.

Draft registration is simply moving us toward a new Cold War. It will do nothing to enhance the United States' preparedness or capability - but will certainly disrupt the lives of many Americans.

DR. SHEILA WATERS

Guest Editorials invited

The crimes crisis in our community is a problem nobody denies exists.

No one agrees how to cope with it.

The Baltimore AFRO as regular readers have noticed with approval has been commenting on this issue with increasing intensity.

What we would like to do at this point is to invite all concerned citizens to send us their constructive recommendations on how we can reduce violent crime in general, and the high incidence of juvenile crime in particular.

We will publish as much of your input as editorial space permits.

Please address your correspondence to The Editor. Keep your recommendations brief. We can print only that material which bears the writer's name, address and telephone contact number. If you prefer that your remarks remain confidential please note.

Let us know your ideas! Speak up, speak out!

A safe city is our right as citizens

Strides toward excellence presidents tackle White House

A commentary by
Andrew Billingsley, President
Morgan State University

Not long ago, 12 black college presidents slowly filed into the huge, oak panelled conference room of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, at 450 Maryland Ave. in Washington, D.C.

We were not exactly the Twelve Disciples. We felt more like Mission Impossible.

It was the week when controversy had intensified over the future of the Department of Education, which the President has recommended the Congress abolish.

The prevailing philosophy seems to be a separate Department of Education, with a head sitting in the President's Cabinet with direct access to the President, gives the Federal government too strong a role in educational matters which can best be left to the states and the local jurisdictions.

The controversy was intensified because the American Council of Education was having its annual meeting and leaders from all sections of higher education were in town alternating among the formal sessions of the conference, the internal gatherings in the halls, bars, rooms and restaurants and the intensive lobbying on the hill and at the White House itself.

Secretary of Education, Terell Bell, the President's point man in the drive to abolish the Department of Education, had been engaged in valiant if not largely futile efforts to explain to the educational leaders the philosophy and practical consequences of the administration's approach to education issues.

After the educators argued long into the night, whatever the administration may wish to accomplish, whether it is the National Security, National Economic Recovery or an honored plan in history on re-election in 1984, an increasingly highly educated citizenry seems an indispensible ingredient for success, to say nothing of the values of open access to high quality educational programs for the vitality of our democratic aspiration as a nation.

Whatever it is our government thinks it has to do about the Russians, the Middle East, and or about Foreign Policy generally, it can be done better when, on the domestic side, the citizens feel their government has not abandoned them, the President argued.

But the 12 black college presidents were not there to join battle with those who would save the Department of Education from demise.

As disciples of black education, we had a higher calling, a deeper commitment, a broader purpose—a mission which all or almost all, agreed was almost impossible. It was an urgent mission nevertheless and Secretary Bell graciously agreed to meet with us.

Our mission, said one college president, is to help this nation from the self-destructive course which some people are trying to take it, under the guise of economy and austerity.

No nation can be stronger by increasing defense spending, cutting social programs and providing expanding tax benefits to the rich. Education is not a give away program, it is an investment in the future progress and stabilizing of this nation.

It was like taking coals to Newcastle. Secretary Bell seemed to agree with our central mission. But he also seemed powerless - or almost powerless - to do anything about it.

Thus, at the very same moment a dozen black college presidents were meeting with the Secretary of Education, another delegation, under the leadership of Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, was up on the Hill testifying before Congressman Paul Simmons.

Who were these people calling on the Secretary of Education. And what was their central message?

They were members of the Board of Directors of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education representing 111 historically and predominately black colleges serving more than 215,000 students across the nation and many parts of the world, especially Africa and the Caribbean.

These 12 disciples of higher education were headed by Dr. Charles A. Lyons, Jr., head of Fayetteville State University in North Carolina. They included;

Dr. Rufus Barfield, Bowie State College, Maryland; Dr. Andrew Billingsley, Morgan State University, Maryland; Dr. Elias Blake, Clark College, Georgia; Dr. Theodore Debro, Mississippi Industrial College, MississiPpi; Dr. William R. Harvey, Hampton Institute, Virginia

Dr. Mable P. McLean, Barber-Scotia College, North Carolina; Dr. R. D. Morrison, Alabama A & M University, Alabama; Dr. Romalius O. Murphy, Shaw College, Michigan; Dr. Luns Richardson, Morris College, So Carolina; Dr. Jesse N. Stone Jr., Southern University System, Louisiana; and Dr. George B. Thomas, Voorhees College, South Carolina.

They were assisted in the presentation of their central message by the able, dedicated and hardworking staff of the Association: Dr. Samuel L. Myers, executive director; Mrs. Wilma J. Roscoe, executive associate; and Dr. Herbert O. Reid, legal counsel.

Over on the Hill, the delegation of presidents led by Dr. Robinson, president of the Association and president of St. Augustine's College, North Carolina, and Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, president of Tennessee State University, were testifying in the same vein before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, headed by Simmons, (D-Ill).

When the frank give-and-take session had concluded, the central message of the college presidents to the Secretary of Education was focused on the three hottest issues in all of higher education today:

1. President Reagan's Executive Order No. 12320, pledging federal support to the nation's historically black colleges.

2. The President's request to the Congress that the U.S. Department of Education be abolished.

3. The President's directive that education program budgets be reduced by an additional 12 percent this fiscal year.

The college presidents agree with the assessments made by Tony Brown and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, two of the most articulate advocates of black colleges on the national scene that President Reagan's order in support of black colleges is even stronger than the two orders issued by President Carter.

They have undertaken systematic visits with all the cabinet secretaries and agency heads to help them develop effective enforcement procedures.

The delegation came also to express their appreciation to the President, the Secretary, as well as to Assistant Secretary, Dr. Thomas Melady, and his assistant, Ms. Thelma Duggin, for their support in the issuance of the Executive order.

At the same time, the presidents expressed their worry that the second and third issues above might have the effect of undermining the first.

With respect to the future of the Department of Education, the president's position is that whatever the new structure, the federal role in education should remain paramount or black people will suffer at the hands of state and local governments whose support for black education is uncertain at best.

The presidents urged a strong continued federal presence "in order to fulfill the responsibility of the federal government to the disadvantaged, particularly in the area of civil rights...student financial assistance...and to developing institutions. Campus housing loans...various special support programs...and to perform similar functions."

The delegation expressed its most forceful opposition to President Reagan's proposal to reduce the budget for educational programs by 12 percent on top of the cuts already exacted. Already suffering enrollment declines for fall 1981 due largely to present budget cuts, the black college presidents were emphatic in their advice to the Secretary.

Tell the President, one said, that if he insists on budget cuts of this magnitude in educational programs, he may undercut his own executive order designed to strengthen the historically black colleges.

If there must be cuts in educational programs, the college presidents urged that the financial programs be spared any further cuts. If it is not possible to avoid some cuts in financial aid, he argued, then by all means the Basic Equal Opportunity (BELL) Grants should be spared any further major reductions.

For this is the federal program more than any other factor which has enabled the black student enrollment in colleges to double from 600,000 to 1.2 million during the past decade.

In a position paper, the delegation said to the Secretary:

"We have carefully assessed the impact that student financial aid cuts have already had on our institutions. Any further cuts would be devastating.

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

MY CLUB, the Hopkins University Center for Metropolitan Planning and Research and the Maryland Port Administration held the annual seminar, cruise and dinner Oct. 22.

This is our 4th year and each time the event becomes more interesting with all the heads of businesses, banks, corporations, the Legislature and Congress on the scene.

ONLY small difference (this day and age of cutbacks) was the lowly chicken on the usually pluse menue.

JHU's Dr. Steven Muller and Dr. Jack Fisher and Port administrator Greg Halpin led the guests on the cruise and held sway over the brief dinner program. James J. O'Donnel came instead of Gov. Hughes.

THE HISTORY of the Port was impressive dating from colonial Maryland to the present thus making our water transportation sixth in the world.

BILL CULLEN received the distinguished Fell Public Service award. Norm RUKERT SI got it at the May, 1979 dinner and Mayor Schaefer at the May, 1980 affair.

THE CRUISE went under the Francis Scott Key Bridge and gave dignitaries a good look at all the facilities at late evening and came back after the dinner to show off Baltimore's glittering skyline and Harbor Place.

THE SPECIAL invitations included the Hyatt Regency's beige bid printed in green "for coffee and cordials immediately following the dinner."

HOWEVER, when we reached the Columbia Room on the second level we found an array of fabulous desserts and Irish coffee for everyone.

SEN. CLARENCE BLOUNT was seated at the VIP table but even our "back of the bus" table had such elite as Victor Frenkil, his son and not too far away Geneva Purvear, Werner Jordan, Del. Ike Dixon, Charles and Dr. Tyson Tildon, Nor Brailey and Mr. and Mrs. George Jude who always attend.

DURING the cruise Charles Tildon told us the most heart warming story of his mother, a tiny lady who reared the family alone after the father died. It was wonderful to hear a grown son give his Mom such great praise.

For all we know

OUR SPRING symposium at Evergreen House on Charles Street invited the nation's leading writers, poets, editors and novelists. After cocktails and delicious munchies we had a plush dinner.

EVERGREEN HOUSE is a 1696 mansion such as you've never seen with a library worth millions. Later we received a printed book with our names and summary of the seminar. Vausant Dugdale was the host.

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY and Towson State University, are sponsoring a 3 - week excursion to Mainland Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in January, 1982.

THE COST IS $2,098 including round trip air fare, all transportation in the itinerary, hotel accommodations in Ecuador, travel by boat in the Galapagos, all meals in the Islands. Information by calling 301 - 467 - 4387.

THE MEMBERS of the Congressional Black Caucus who voted to oppose the sale of AWACS and other U.S. military equipment to Saudi Arabia are:

Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (Dem., Calif.) Rep. William L. Clay (Dem., Mich.), Rep. Kardiss Collins (Dem., Ill.), Rep. John Conyers (Dem., Mich.), Rep. George Crockett (Dem., Mich.), Rep. Julian Dixon (Dem., Calif.), Rep. Mervin Dymally (Dem., Calif.), Rep. Harold Ford (Dem., Mich.), Rep. William Gray (Dem., Pa.), Rep. Augustus Hawkins (Dem., Calif.), Rep. Mickey Leland (Dem., Tex.), Rep. Parren Mitchell (Dem., Md.), Rep. Charles Rangel (Dem., N.Y.), Rep. Gus Savage (Dem., Ill.), Rep. Louis Stokes (Dem., Ohio), Rep. Harold Washington (Dem., Ill.).

Hispanic Congressman who joined the Black Caucus in opposing the AWACS sale are: Rep. E. de la Garza (Dem., Tex.), Rep. Robert Garcia (Dem., N.Y.), Rep. Henry B. Gonzales (Dem., Tex.), Rep. Manuel Lujan (Rep., N.M.), Rep. Edward Roybal (Dem., Cal.).

IN THE Congressional Record, Rep. Chisolm said the Reagan proposal would not increase U.S. security or the prospects for Middle East peace or stability in the region. Noting that Saudi Arabia was "an avowed enemy of the State of Israel," Rep. Chisolm declared:

"The Saudis have declared a holy war against the Jewish state. They funnel billions of dollars, earned from selling oil to America, into the treasuries of the PLO and hostile Arab nations. They condemn the Camp David agreement.

"Their new AWACS planes and their new F - 15 fuel tanks and missiles would multiply the dangers to Israel and would force the Israelis to arm themselves even more heavily as a result."

MORGAN will be host to a public conference on "Global Partnership - North and South Together." The conference will be held at the McKeldin Student Center at Morgan on Tuesday, November 17 and Wednesday, November 18.

The conference will feature American and Indian speakers. It will center on the theme of the international economic order and its effects on Americans and on the poor of developing countries. The conference is open to all interested persons, but will be of special interest to teachers and students.

DR. ANDREW BILLINGSLEY, president, was the keynote speaker at the 10th Annual Conference of the University Without Walls Program at Howard University.

While serving at Howard as vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Billingsley founded the University Without Walls Program presently directed by Mrs. Anita Hackney.

SATURDAY, 11 A.M. the Legislative Black Caucus under Dr. Frank M. Conaway is meeting with Rev. St. George Crosse at the Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave., where Del. Wendell Phillips is pastor.

THE QUESTION AT POINT IS ON Mr. Crosse's statement that blacks are soft on crime.

NOV. 2 is the date of the Capitol Hill Club Washington reception honoring Dr. Aris T. Allen on his first day with the Reagan Administration.

Honorary chairmen are Sen. Charles Mc Mathias, Marjorie Holt, J. Glenn Bealle Jr., Dr. Allen C. Levey, Irvin Henson and Leonard Blackshear. Hosts are members of the Maryland Republicans.

NOV. 8 is the date of the Paul Robeson private reception, the first in Black Cultural Arts Programs of Provident Hospital. The event 4 to 6 p.m. is in the Emanuel Chambers Auditorium, at Provident, by invitation only.

MAYOR SCHAEFER has sent out private invitations for the Nov. 9, 11 a.m. Redwood Center, 26 S. Calvert St., open house and buffet and dedication.

NOV. 5 - 7 is the Middle Atlantic Writers Asso. conference at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

At the Friday night Banquet of the Conference, the Distinguished Writer Award will go to Lucille Clifton and posthumously to Waters Turpin. For information call 444 - 3165 or 426 - 2724.

Tony Brown's Journal

Friend or hypocrite?

One of the most cruel, underhanded acts of hatred I have known of was brought to my attention two months ago. The reason I have paused so long in my response is that my initial reaction was so intensely negative.

The emergency emotions — rage and hatred — gradually gave way to a limited objectivity, then, and now, to an ability to understand another person's evil in a context outside of my own fragile human ego.

But that process took a lot of "whys." Why, for example, would a man go out of his way, not to disagree, but to destroy another person's defense of a differing philosophy?

Because he perceives a philosophical difference between us — and there is — he resorted to becoming an agent in a secondary boycott, a clear violation of federal anti-trust laws, by calling for others to join him in a legal conspiracy which could amount to monetary damages.

Ambrose Bierce's definition of a hypocrite: "One who, professing virtues that he does not respect, secures the advantage of seeming to be what he despises."

Whether the man in question fits that definition or not, he is aware of the rules of "The Game," because some years ago, I made him a gift of the rules:

"Most people consider life a battle, but it is not a battle, it is a game.

"It is a game, however, which cannot be played successfully without the knowledge of spiritual law, and the Old and the New Testaments give the rules of the game with wonderful clearness. Jesus Christ taught that it was a great game of Giving and Receiving."

And receiving is the natural result of giving. Gautama Buddha said, "You are what you think having become what you thought." One identifies with his beliefs and becomes all that he thinks. And one evil thought leads to another which leads to another.

Sir Isaac Newton made another law: "For every action there must be an equal and opposite reaction." Therefore, the more evil that one becomes, the more the actor becomes a reactor.

The Golden Rule - "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is simply another version of a scientific principle.

President Anwar Sadat, for example, having raised his consciousness from the depths of nationalistic hatred to an aura of Peace, automatically was confronted with the forces which are committed to darkness.

If you are black and you grow out of racial dependence on whites and a resulting hatred toward whites because they will not let you exploit them, the more negative and baser black hypocrites will blame you for representing white interests.

These black negative forces are just as destructive as the white racist negative forces and they both share the same origin. Although they are opposite reactions to a higher consciousness, both are shadows of good because evil has no light of its own.

In Lao Tsu's Tao Tee Ching, the question is asked: "What is a good man?" Answer: "The teacher of a bad man."

It stands to reason, therefore, that if you are trying to be "good," you will always be confronted with those who are trying to be "bad."

Moreover, I came to understand why my enemy, in a letter to someone, said, "Tony is my good friend" just after he libeled me in an assortment of unfounded allegations and factual errors.

HOPKINS - VANSANT DUGDALE Contemporary Writers Symposium Participants Richard A. Macksey, Program Moderator; Professor and Chairman, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University. Andrew Barth, Correspondent - WMAR - TV; Carl Bode, Novelist; James Breudy, Writer - Critic - Sunpapers; Andrei Codrescu, Poet; Clare Crawford - Mason, Correspondent, Sr. Producer NBC, People Magazine; James Doyle, Chief Political Correspondent - Newsweek; Daniel Mark Epstein, Poet - Playwright; Andrew Gillinson, Advertising Writer - Vansant; Stephen Hunter, Journalist - Movelist; Josephine Jacobsen, Poet - Critic; Peter Jay, Columnist - Sunpapers; Jacques Kelly, Columnist - Newspapers, News American; Peter Kumpa, Columnist - Sunpapers; Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor - Afro - American; Julia Randall, Poet; Robert Shayon, Annenberg School of Communication; William Sisler, Humanities Editor - Johns Hopkins Press; Jack Smith, TV Correspondent; Eleanor Wilner, Poet; Isabel Wilner, Poet.

Innocent blacks being killed

Dear AFRO:

Without any trial - fair or otherwise - everyday innocent blacks are mercilessly killed and hardly a protest is heard.

Since Adolph Hitler's attempt to exterminate the Jews was condemned by the world, genocide is no longer openly advocated. In its place has come a more cunning and effective scheme.

Instead of one race being massacred by another, blacks are being deceived into destroying their own descendants. Instead of facing death in a concentration camp, blacks meet death on the abortion table.

The responsibility then is placed solely upon the parents without pointing attention to the original instigator of the tragedy.

Regardless of who did it; the baby is dead and all of his potential good is lost. Think of the potential black leaders who are cut down before seeing the light of day.

A solution to race relations may be developing with some future leader. However, if the baby is butchered on the abortion table, the solution to our problems may die with him.

We need all the help we can get. Do not reduce our chances for progress by killing those who might be of some benefit.

Parents do not let anyone with gentle words persuade you to murder your precious one. The people who tell you to kill your baby are unable to bring it back to life when regrets come.

H. MACEO WILLIAMS JR.