Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The climb to calvary never ends

Jesus of Nazareth

It is tradition with the AFRO at Easter to remind its readers of all faiths and religious disciplines that the man Jesus, the son of God in Christianity, according to all we know of the time, place and circumstances of his origin was a black man.

The late and noted black historian J. A. Rogers and the late Dr. Carl Murphy, editor-publisher of the AFRO newspapers, were among the scholars who first dared postulate and document this view.

The blue-eyed, blond bearded Jesus of modern times is a concept expressed by European artists and sculptors, hundreds of years after the life and death of Jesus.

Jesuse was born, lived and traveled in what is now the Middle East.

It is entirely likely that his mortal image would be of a skin tone, facial features, and general stature of the Semitic peoples we today know as that polygot grouping of tribes which developed in and around the Tigres-Euphrates delta thousands of years ago.

Arabs, Egyptians, Greeks, Iranians, Palestinians, the Iraqui, all of these racial and genetic strains comprise the people of the Near East and it is hardly likely that Jesus, the son of God, born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, would not in his mortality resemble the peoples of this region.

At Easter once again we remind Christians that Jesus was most assuredly brown of hue, and black of tribal strain.

The saying all roads lead to Rome (wherein Jesus was transformed from Semite to white European) has never been true.

The truth as Rogers, Murphy et al have eloquently expressed it is that all roads lead from black Africa.

It is so with Jesus, it is so with the great prophets, Mohammad, Zoraster.

It is certainly something for us to reflect upon as we celebrate the death and the resurrection on this holiday.

Douglass High contract

Rep. Parren Mitchell and the minority contractors, not to mention our community at large, are correct to be indignant about the way the city has handled awards to renovate Douglass High School.

This institution, along with Dunbar and Carver, is a rich continuation of the black experience in Baltimore.

The lives of every black native Baltimorean over 30 has in one or another been touched by one of these three institutions.

To blithely dole out much needed monies to a non - community contracting firm without so much as a passing nod at minority contractors is, in our view, reprehensive and brutally insensitive action on the part of the city "fathers."

For Council President Orlinsky, who long ago used up any claims he might have held on the title "progressive" politican, to justify use of a white owned painting firm as an example of minority participation (it is owned by a white woman) only adds insult to injury.

Orlinsky well knows what is at issue here and to express concern that down-trodden white females not be disabused in the minority contractors assurances of government contracts is to obfuscate the issue and is an attempt cynically, to pit feminists against blacks so that the weak-minded are further confused.

At issue here is the municipal power structure's continuing thumbing of its collective white nose at our community.

At issue here is jobs and revenue for residents of our community.

We urge everyone to rise early Easter Monday and march on City Hall with our congressman, working and business people, in protest of this latest racist expression by our city's administration.

No workfare laws

Credit intelligent legislators, black and white, with crushing a General Assembly bill that would have forced welfare recipients, including mothers of young children, to work for their grants.

When this proposed legislation reached the Senate Finance Committee it was killed on a 5-3 vote.

The workfare bill was based on a cruel, punitive concept and would have further damaged the already perilous state of many low income families, of all races, in the state of Maryland.

MADELINE MURPHY

Golden Eggs

There is an incendiary nature starting from the smallest house fire into a holocaust about the land, inching quickly toward Doomsday at Easter time, when the resurrection should readily portend a rebirth, a renewal of faith and forgiveness.

There is no small connection to the cynicism bringing about the interrelatedness of the two.

Chemicals which pervade our homes, clothing, and the insulation of some homes, have become more flammable as manufacturers developed cheaper synthetic materials and plastics. Although extremely profitable, these chemicals endanger our health and safety.

If one reads the labels on rugs, draperies, plastic, containers, aerosols, though the warnings may be in microscopic print, or maybe the cautions are non-existent, all you have to do is let a spark from a cigarette or cigar drop on wearing apparel or carpeting and the speed at which the articles burn, warn one (oftimes too late) how often we risk immolation.

And above all, do not mix chlorine with ammonia while spring cleaning. Many people have been found asphyxiated while scrubbing the bathroom or kitchen from this potent alchemy.

Manufacturers glamorize synthetic over natural fibers, such as wool, linen, silk, or cotton — making these obsolete and far too expensive.

We are encouraged or harangued to buy, wear, and decorate with synthetics because they are versatile and easier to clean and care for. Yet in so doing, we are actually courting disaster 24-hours-a-day.

How often do we read about houses going up like tinder boxes? Of burning clothing sticking to bodies and melting into the flesh from intense heat? Of noxious fumes and smoke suffocating people in burning hotels?

If manufacturers, some of whom also are involved in developing instruments of war including chemical gases, take our safety so lightly, then we should be warned "the fire the next time" is no idle prophecy. It is a real and present danger, even without firing the first nuclear blast.

An investigation of children's sleepwear found the clothing so dangerously flammable, the clothes were recalled merely to be treated with yet another chemical retarding flammability.

Add to that the concern about where to dump the mammoth stock piles of nuclear waste; and how to prevent workers developing cancer from radioactivity when they repair steam operated nuclear power plants. Surely we are peering desperately through our personal windows of vulnerability without a "first strike" capability against the irresponsible merchants of greed and misrepresentation.

There is a Greek fairy tale about a farmer who had a goose that laid a golden egg every morning. Getting impatient with just one egg a day, he finally killed the goose to get all the eggs at once. Of course there were no more eggs.

This country's Ray-gun policies in domestic, as well as foreign peacekeeping efforts, emphasize human rights, but practice man's inhumanity to man.

Not only do incendiary clothing and furnishings kill men, women and children here and abroad, but we also deny free trade to the Soviet bloc nations killing job opportunities for whole towns of people.

International Harvester in Indiana had a contract with the Soviets to supply tractors and other farm equipment. The Reagan Administration with its goose killing mentality, decided these were among the industrial exports that should not be allowed.

Consequently, International Harvester closed down its complete operation causing thousands of people to go on the shrinking public dole, reduced by Reaganomics.

Then there was another company that spent 22 months developing and preparing contracts with the Soviet Union to sell machinery to be used in the gas pipeline from the USSR to West Germany. In the final stages of the bargain, the Reagan Administration nixed the deal, causing untold financial loss and unemployment.

No doubt this country has had many opportunities to develop peaceful trade relationships all over the world with countries whose socialist ideologies differ from ours. But this suicidal tendency to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs escalates confrontation, rather than developing peaceful coalitions and co-existence.

By heightening frustration and hopelessness on the part of people eager to work, especially young adults, how much easier it is to force conscription, to enlarge the army with the legions of unemployed, so the saber rattling Reaganites can justify going to war to save the world from the "Red threat" and make it safe for "democracy!" strongly by letter, wire and phone to our elected officials, including the President; that we organize groups or join groups dedicated to stop the arms race, so we can get about the business of developing protections against businesses endangering our lives every day, while encouraging world trade to relieve spiralling unemployment.

that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Are we not the instruments of this eternal promise?

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Douglass High

Cab Callaway, Thurgood Marshall, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., and a host of other luminaries graduated from Douglass High School. This proud, historic black institution gave Baltimore many of its social workers, lawyers, teachers, doctors, and clergy.

On March 3, 1982, the Board of Esitmates gave the C.A.M. Construction Co., Inc. a $5.8 million contract to renovate the school. The contract was awarded despite the fact C.A.M. made no provisions for minority subcontractors.

Belatedly, C.A.M. offered a $12,000 subcontract to an experienced, successful black firm. $12,000 out of $5.8 million, no wonder the offer was spurned. Another highly successful black firm was offered an $8,000 subcontract — that too was spurned.

If we are not angry about this, we should be. In a city with a majority black population, this simply should not happen.

Some groups are angry, angry enough to take action. The Maryland Minority Contractors Association, Inc., the Douglass High School Alumnae Association, the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP, and, my office, have joined forces to protest the contract.

We will assemble at 1902 N. Ellamont Street on Easter Monday, April 12, and proceed from there to City Hall to voice our protest. We expect to arrive at City Hall at 10 a.m. If this protest does not bring the desired result, we will resume our protest at the site of the renovation at some future date.

Much more than the renovation of Douglass High School is at stake. At a time when anti-affirmative action voices spew their messages; at a time when black unemployment in our city has moved beyond the crises proportion; and, at a time when federal budget cuts have inflicted severe pain on the black community, we cannot afford to be silent.

Each time there is an effort to exclude us from any area of city or state activity, we must be prepared to wage a fight in the legislative halls, in the courts, and, by direct action.

The only reason the city had the audacity to approve the contract, without any involvement of minority subcontractors, is the city fathers thought we were so ignorant we would be unaware of the contract, or so apathetic and beaten down that, even if we knew, we would do nothing about it.

It is time to send a message. I am proud of the organizations which have joined hands to protest this sell out of black contractors. I am glad there will be a protest demonstration on April 12, and I am proud to be a part of that protest.

Arnold Jolivet, President of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association, Inc. said it so well in a letter to me:

"I need not tell you that it is most frustrating and disappointing that this kind of arbitrary and unlawful discrimination and exclusion are still being inflicted against black and other minority contractors in state funded construction contracts.

"On almost a daily basis I receive complaints from local black and other racial minority contractors alleging unlawful racial exclusion and discrimination on state and city funded construction contracts.

"Indeed, we cannot have a unified city or state if black and other racial minority subcontractors are excluded from, or limited to minimal participation in the economic life of our community."

This contract is an insult to black Baltimoreans. I know where I will be on April 12th (Easter Monday) at 8 a.m. Where will you be?

Where is our pride and our self-respect?

DEL. JOHN W. DOUGLASS
Maryland House of Delegates

Letters

All news is not bad

Dear AFRO:

I would like to share with your readers a recent event that illustrates the fact all news is not bad news.

Saturday, March 27, I was particularly impressed and gratified by what I saw and heard at a Self-Help Project Open House in the Reservoir Hill area.

A neighbor and I were standing outside this house when a very pleasant-faced woman came gingerly up the street. We exchanged smiles and pleasant greetings and she told us, "this is the most famous house in the city today."

I later found out this was Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke.

The air was electric with happy, smiling, chattering black and white persons representing varied stations in life assembled for a common cause.

There were speeches and well-derserved awards.

Eight unemployed workers from the community had put this renovated miracle of a house together in four months, even working free on weekends.

I had a lump in my throat as the earnest faced recipient of this project, the mother of eight, stated the responsibility of raising her family had mainly been on her shoulders and she never thought the time would come when she would be able to buy a home.

Hopefully, this may be the incentive for many people of this area and other areas in similar situations, to someday take real pride in the place called home.

Who knows what long range good effects this might prove to be.

I smiled as I walked down Brookfield Avenue.

I knew this day would be a bit more pleasant.

MADELINE LEWIS

HUB's goals are misunderstood

Dear AFRO:

Being employed at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point Plant, I have had the opportunity to hear the opinions of people from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds. Nothing is misunderstood more than the HUB Organization, Inc., in its Buy In-Buy Us campaign.

Many whites think it is a racist effort, and unfortunately some blacks do not understand HUB efforts.

HUB, Inc. is a group of black business, professional and lay individuals dedicated to promoting black businesses and black economic development in the greater metropolitan area.

Anytime blacks are articulating positive efforts for blacks to support blacks, some whites scream "racism." The HUB, Inc. Buy In-Buy Us campaign is not an effort against whites. They do not advocate buying from white merchants. Their campaign is simply to make black people aware, think about, and practice buying from other black people.

It is through supporting each other we are able to develop our own economic base in the black community.

Some blacks think the HUB effort is designed to fatten the pockets of HUB participants. Certainly, this is not the purpose of HUB, Inc.

HUB is trying to make the black community of Baltimore aware of the fact they spend about one billion dollars each year in Baltimore.

Only a small fraction of the money is spent with black businesses. If more of that money was spent with black businesses, they could expand, and employ more people from the black community.

The HUB, Inc. effort is a local effort to make black Baltimoreans aware of their influence on the economy of Baltimore. But, there are national efforts to make blacks more aware of their buying power, and how the spending of more dollars with black merchants can help cure many of our economic ills.

Tom Skinner, an enterprising New York religious figure, recently told a group of black Catholics that, "black people in America command a yearly disposable income of $150 billion, that income alone made black people the 12th richest nation in the world and ninth among free nations."

He concluded, people who command a combined yearly disposable income of $150 billion should not ask the federal government to support minority enterprise or fund their national civil rights organizations.

I believe we can safely conclude blacks locally and nationally have the dollars to support their civil rights organizations, their banks and savings and loans, and support and develop new black businesses.

But, we must realize as a people, none are helped so much as those who help themselves.

Support HUB, Inc.

RODNEY A. ORANGE

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

El Salvadorans vote, why don't we?

Dear AFRO:

It is a sad irony that in El Salvador citizens braved threats of violence and death, lined up and waited for hours for the opportunity to exercise a precious right — the right to vote and the opportunity to do something about their own destiny.

Here in Baltimore, where there is no violence or threat of harm, where the polling places are only a few paces from their doorsteps, more than 70 percent of black Baltimoreans refuse to vote, refuse to do anything to make their government more responsive to them and to achieve a voice in running their own city, where they are an overwhelming majority.

Samuel BANKS

Main Street America: A black perspective

The recent political foray of President Ronald Wilson Reagan to the South, espousing the virtues of New Federalism was notable for its central emphasis: political puffery and fluff.

At a time when 10 million Americans are out of work, the highest unemployment level since the Great Depression, it was cruel and misleading for President Reagan to tout his New Federalism as a way out of the nation's economic doldrums.

The sad and tragic fact is that the Reagan Administration has no rational or realistic economic propram to generate full employment and maximum production and growth.

The essence of the New Federalism is to return programs now funded by the Federal government to the states. A starting point would be the assumption by the states of the cost of welfare and food stamps in exchange for the Federal government's assumption of the cost of Medicaid.

The fatal flaw in this proposed Federal-State reciprocity is the states do not have the money to underwrite the programs.

The harsh and unsettling reality is Reagan's New Federalism is headed in the same direction as his Reaganomics: ABJECT AND COLLOSSAL FAILURE.

The President's virtual obsession with grandiose defense expenditures, $1.6 trillion by 1985, and the so-called nuclear "window of vulnerability," has obscured his vision of the massive and widening human suffering in the body politic.

It is obvious the "Main Street America" seen by me is oblivious to President Reagan: evictions and foreclosures at an all time high; growing and dispiriting lines of unemployed; an accelerating national malaise characterized by lugubriousness and insecurity.

Locally, despite assiduous and highly publicized efforts by Mayor William Donald Schaefer for genuine urban renaissance and recovery, the situation, amidst the glitter, baubles and dazzle, is stark and ominous: over 50,000 unemployed youths and young adults; approximately 200,000 of the 450,000 black population either poor or a part of the working poor; a growing sense of hopelessness and alienation among the black majority of Baltimore and the poor; the development and enlargement of a permanent underclass.

Baltimore, substantially, mirrors the desperate and deplorable state of blacks, Hispanics and the poor in the urban centers of our nation. Regrettably, President Reagan traversed "Main Street America," and failed to see or confront the grim assertions of fellow-Americans for jobs, equality of opportunity and social and economic justice.

The substance of President Reagan's Reaganomics and "New Federalism" is reminiscent of Thomas Carlyle's apt description of the Holy Roman Empire: "It was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire."

The "difficult days" the late Dr. Martin Luther king, Jr. foresaw have become harder, more obdurate and subtle for black Americans and the poor.

Black colleges and universities, the source of our leadership cadre, are under a fearful monetary and fiscal siege. Black churches, historically, the most potent and independent force in the black community, have, by and large, abandoned a theology of hope and liberation to one, essentially, of spiritual and secular docility and other worldliness.

Black leaders must now, in all professional and vocational callings, dare to develop action-strategies leading to the political ballot and economic power. We must forge broad-based support for our collective manhood-womanhood during a troubling and pivotal period in our national history.

The wretched and abominable failure of President Reagan's economic policies makes it imperative to divert attention to maintain his political survival, for him to find a scapegoat. Consequently, blacks, Hispanics and the poor are, once again, emerging as the national scapegoats for the socio-economic failures of our nation.

The monthly and special reports of the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics are no longer a question of the degree of national unemployment, but the severity of Depression levels of unemployment among black youths and adults.

The disquieting paradox of this, is although the majority of white society is beginning to feel the lacerating pangs of Reaganomics, they still affirm their faith in President Reagan's economic programs. They say, "give him more time."

Time, of course, will not bring full employment, productivity, and growth, but sensible, realistic economic programs can provide reassurance and hope.

We must dare to reach out and upward.

We must believe in ourselves and be strong in the aggressive and vigorous pursuit of freedom, human dignity and social and economic justice.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER
City Editor

REMEMBER what was forecast by the Farmer's Almanac when the planets lined up in March?

ALSO, do you recall the fact that the events were not necessarily expected to happen on ONE DATE ONLY? That the planets hold their positions over several days, months and an extended period of time.

AND, those events the occasion is said to bring, do not come all at once.

NOW THAT WE are experiencing the predicted earth quakes, the never - before weather, such as snow at Eastertime, never - before temperatures and floods etc., what do you think?

COMMENTATORS in most media and on TV have blamed the record-breaking occasions — even that business between Great Britian and Argentina on (1) Reagan (2) the Planets - both of whom are Never- Before.

AND, the Almanac says, there is more to come. A never - before heat wave this summer PLUS lots of bugs, ants, flies.

BETTER NEWS

LEON PERRY and his wife, Jerry, our longtime friends from Prince Georges County write a letter full of good news.

LEON is bidding for a 26th Legislative District House of Delegates from the 26th District also.

LEON of the Largo community of Upper Marlboro has been confirmed by the Maryland State Senate for a 3 - year term of the Board of Review for the Department of Transportation. His name was in Gov. Hughes Green Bag.

MUCH MORE is coming soon on this illustrious couple. Leon N. Perry and Jerry E. Perry who, I think, had the most beautiful wedding ever witnessed a couple of years ago.

IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN

MARK APRIL 25 on your calendar for a lovely Sunday evening program at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2102 Madison Ave.

THIS WILL BE the annual convert of the Madison Avenue Church's brilliant choir and the event is dedicated to the memory of Lillian Parrott Murphy, the late choir director.

THE CHOIR will give excerpts from Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with these artists as soloists: Rebecca Sydnor, soprano, Frederick Matthews, contralto, Johnny Batts, tenor, Michael Bennett, baritone and Joseph Pearson, bass. Wonderful, great artists.

Admission is free and guarantee, this will be the ultimate of all Eastertide musicals, the one that will remain with you for a long time and raise your entire being. Rev. Reginald J. Daniels is minister.

MY LETTER with the above announcement comes from Reba Brooks Matthews, my daughter's 5th Grade School 103 teacher who informs she has a photo of Marsha in her class of many moons ago. I remember Marsha used to adore Miss Brooks. I am anxious to see the photo. Thanks Miss Brooks.

DIANA'S LITTLE PAGEANT

The third annual Miniature Miss Pageant of Maryland is currently seeking young participants. The event will come at the Hilton Hotel downtown, Sunday, July 18.

A "Back to School Wardrobe" will be among the top prizes, surprises and trophies.

Talent is a requirement to enter also the young Miss should be between the ages of six through 12. For applications write: Miniature Miss Pageant, Diana Kane, P.O. Box 4633, Balto., MD, 21212. Ph. 435 - 8608. Deadline for entry is April 30.

MISS MARYLAND

Mayor Schaefer is delighted to announce that the Second Annual "Miss Baltimore's Best" Pageant, a project of the "Baltimore is Best" program, will be held on Sunday, April 18 at 7:30 at the Downtown Hilton Hotel. The event is a preliminary to "Miss Maryland" and "Miss America."

Mayor Schaefer says "This year's pageant will be more spectacular than our first 'Miss Baltimore's Best' Pageant.

Finalists are Susan Baylus, Richelle Brooks, Bernadette Foster, Velva J'eanay Greene, Mary Beth Haroth, Jonzetta Jordan, Tammy Marble, Margaret Peachy, Karen Simmons, Pamela Villeneuve, Judith Wallace, and Deborah Wright.

The public is invited. Free tickets are available at 6:30 p.m. the evening of the Pageant, outside the Main Ballroom of the Hilton first - come basis. Dress is semi-formal. For information 396 5785.

APRIL 18

The Herbert M. Frisby Historical SocietSociety's Annual Wreath Placement Ceremonies commemorating Mathew A. Henson, the first person to locate and place the United States flag on top of the earth, and co - discoverer of the North Pole with Admiral Robert E. Perry will be in The State House, Annapolis, at the site of the Henson Memorial Tablet, Sunday, April 18, 3 p.m.

"ONE MO' TIME!" the smash hit musical took Baltimore by storm with its recreation of a foot stompin' 1920's vaudeville night in New Orleans, returns to Mechanic Theatre Tuesday, April 20, through Sunday, April 25 only.

The show turns back the clock to 1926 to the famous Lyric Theatre in the French Quarter, where the likes of Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, and "Sweet Mama Stringbean" (Ethel Waters) helped make New Orleans legendary.

For info. call Dr. Samuel Hay at 444 - 3343.

PLEASE HELP

The Govans Parent - Infant Center needs the following items. Please call the Center at 433 - 2052 if you are able to donate any of them. All donations are tax deductible.

Reams of paper (8 ½ x 11), children's art supplies, (crayons, paints, etc.)

Large mirror, stringing beads, tormboard and shapes, small balls, small cube blocks, large soft blocks, bells and rhythm instruments and children's records.

Also, rhythm records, pegs and pegboards, children's plastic dishes and food, plastic animals, toilet paper, paper towels, 2 office desks and 2 chairs, floor lamp, crib sheets, 9 x 12 rug (or larger), curtains for playroom (large windows) and light bulbs.

GOVANS CENTER, 5217 York Rd., Baltimore, 21212.

PROTEST MARCH EASTER MONDAY

The Maryland Minority Contractors Association, Inc., the Douglass High School Alumnae Association, the Baltimore Branch of the National Association for The Advancement of Colored People; and, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell will conduct a protest march on Monday, April 12.

AT ISSUE is the renovation contract for Douglass High School. A letter sent by the organizers to support groups, explains the issue:

"We are tired of being ignored. The Douglass High School Renovation Contract is the last straw.

Douglass, a historic black institution, which has produced many of Maryland's black doctors, social workers, dentists, Clergy, public officials, lawyers, judges, etc., is to be renovated.

The contract for renovation was awarded to a white firm with no involvement of black minority sub contractors-None; this is the last straw! We must act!

"We are asking you to join us on Monday, April 12 at 8 a.m. at 1902 N. Ellamont, the staging area for a protest march a protest march. We shall proceed from the staging area to the steps of City Hall, where at 10:00 a.m., we will present our demands. We expect to conclude at 11:30 a.m.

"It this action does not produce results, we plan demonstrations at the Renovation site later.

"We urge you to gather the members of your organization and your friends to join.

"We are tired of being pushed around and ignored. We are a part of the economic life of Baltimore City.

For all we know We told you so

Tony Brown's comments

Black women speak out

One of my most exciting television programs this year is "The Struggle Within: The Struggle," which deals with the approach Black women are taking toward opportunities and problems.

Black women today constitute a major political and economic force in the country. However, their ascent up the economic and social ladder has not been easy.

Black women have historically evolved in an oppressive environment. Caught up in the shackles of slavery, they were forced to toil in the fields or care for someone else's family. But the evils of enslavement — the physical abuse, separation from family and inhumane conditions — did not break her spirit. Throughout the years, she has remained the cornerstone of her community.

And as Black women move into the 80's, they continue to struggle against racism and sexism. On the average, Black women still earn less than White men, Black men and White women.

Along with these problems have developed new dimensions: a redefinition of sexual roles, a breakdown of traditional family structures, new systems of child rearing and new strains on their relationships with Black men.

Women today are confronted with a broader spectrum of options and opportunities, particularly in career choices. And a new psychographic profile of the Black woman in emerging. To bring these dynamics into clearer focus I talked to a representative group of Black women.

One member of the panel, Jewell Jackson McCabe, the Director of Government and Community Affairs at WNET-TV in New York and also president of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, gave this overview:

"There are one to one relationships that one has and then professional relationships that one has, whether it be with individuals, groups or whatever.

"To break it down, to be clear, we're talking about organized politics sometimes, in the private and public sectors. And sometimes we're talking about in our home. Dealing with the dilemma of a society that is a patriarch, a society that economically looks to the male as the breadwinner and the male as the image of success, and then dealing with our own society, which has limited the success of Black men. Certainly if the issue becomes Black women, it puts Black women in a peculiar position."

As Black women move into more visible leadership roles, the question emerges, "Will Black woman replace the traditionally male-dominated leadership?" Panelist Wanda Bolton, an editor at Glamour magazine, answered that question: "I think there's opportunity for Black men and Black women to work together in terms of leadership kinds of things.

"I don't think that has happened as much as we'd like to, but I think Black women are now becoming a more visible focus, a more visible group of people saying some things about what needs to happen for Black women. I don't think it's a matter of whether or not we're taking leadership roles away from Black men. I don't think that that's the tactic many of us would want to take. I think it's a matter of sharing."

Pam Moore, a news anchor at KXAS-TV in Dallas, Texas had this to say about marriage: "I think most women would like to have a nice one-on-one relationship with somebody without all the competition of who gets the job, who makes what money. You're still looking for the old traditional companion, but you're also wanting someone to build and work towards something with. Some of those things still exist. I mean the family and those kind of feelings. And a lot of women I think today feel like it's very difficult to find a Black man who they can establish that kind of relationship with."

On the subject of juggling career and family, Linda Bates-Parker, the founder and president of the Black Career Women's Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, said, "I work woman replace the traditionally male-dominated leadership?" Panelist Wanda Bolton, an editor at Glamour magazine, answered that question: "I think there's opportunity for Black men and Black women to work together in terms of leadership kinds of things.

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On the subject of juggling career and family, Linda Bates-Parker, the founder and president of the Black Career Women's Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, said, "I work and I care for my children. I don't know how many I can juggle well, but I can work real, real hard at it. And I have role models. My mother never raised me not to work. I don't think of a society or of a role that says you don't work. It is something that I accept and

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL the television series, can be seen on public television Thursday, on Channel 26 at 9:00 p.m. It can also be seen on channels 32, Thurs. at 9:00 p.m., 32, Sat. at 6:30 p.m. and 22, Mon. at 10:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

High interest rates

Dear AFRO:

There is nothing more important to all of us than life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Life involves more than just being alive. It means having your own goals and the reasonable expectation of achieving them. It means having a job, trade or profession.

It means owning your own home. It means having a long term, low interest rate mortgage with no escalator clause. Better yet, it means being debt free. It means having a state of mind that denotes confidence in the future.

Life should mean more than a daily struggle for survival.

For a moment, let us turn our attention to a different kind of reality. Pick up the newspaper, turn on the national television news, or the radio, and what do you hear?

You hear of high interest rates and of a construction industry at a 15 year low. You hear of unemployment, and joblessness. You hear of business failures and closings. You hear of rising bankruptcies and foreclosures.

You hear of crime, alcohol and drugs on the increase. You hear individuals, cities, counties and states are all short of money. You even hear of the Federal government shutting down.

Like a broken record, we hear the same story. It is a story about money and there is not enough of it. Indeed, the words of President John Adams come prophetically true: "All the perplexities, confusion and distress in America arise, not from defects in the Constitution or Confederation, not from want of honor or virtue, so much as from the downright ignorance of the nature of coin, credit and circulation."

On June 7, 1938, Sen. Carter Glass, who co-sponsored the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 said: "I never thought the Federal Bank System would prove such a failure. The country is in a state of irretrievable bankruptcy." Can any less be said today?

However, there is some hope. Las summer, on July 17th, both houses of Congress passed resolutions condemning Paul Volcker's high interest rate policies.

Also, Rep. Henry Gonzalez introduced a bill to transfer control of the Federal Reserve System from the Federal Reserve Board to the Department of the Treasury.

This bill is HR 4358. It would give President Reagan the power he needs to lower interest rates and prevent a worsening collapse of our economy. It deserves your support.

Write your Congressman today.

WILLIAM HARTIG

Gambling and your health

By Yahya B. A. Muhammad

At first it seemed innocent enough. I had extra money and a hunch. I believed I could increase my money by placing a bet on a number I felt sure would come out. With that extra money I could buy that piece of furniture I had seen downtown, which would fit so well in my lover.

That evening I rushed to the TV to watch my number come shooting up on the tube, making me an instant winner, and putting that piece of furniture where it belonged, in my lover. To my surprise, my number did not come out.

Naturally, I would wait until the next day and try it again, since my vibes on that particular number were so strong.

How many times have we heard our spouse, a relative or a friend tell a similar story? How many times have we been the one telling this story ourselves, only to realize much later, after much pain and suffering, we have become a "compulsive gambler?"

Hooked, as strung out as any junkie hooked on heroin, you feel sick, diseased, uneasy. You feel distressed.

You know if you do not get ahold of yourself, you could slip into a life of crime, dealing dope, prostituting women, just to satisfy your craving to win...make the last buck in a something for nothing world.

Many people see it as exercising their rights, as free citizens in a democracy, when they go up to the betting window and place that bet, or gamble their hard earned money away at the dice table; put it on a horse's nose, lose it in a card game, an athletic event, etc.

It may be their legal right, but it also leads to loss of life, property, and family break-ups, a luxury we cannot afford.

Being a compulsive gambler you are sapped of moral, spiritual and physical strength. It is sad enough to watch people who can less afford it betting on a lottery, throwing their money to the wind and hoping, by chance, they will get lucky.

Begin to reflect, realize we did have some money before we placed it at the bettor's window. When the bets are in, the odds are we have lost. For those few who occasionally win, usually, if they add all of their winnings and substract their losses, they still are losers.

Those few who brag they have beat the system, and become rich as a direct result of their gambling, should look at the terrible price we pay as an ethnic group.

Look at the suffering we bring on our future generations by not planning the future with the dollars we are earning today. We, as an ethnic group, cry the most about our economic plight, and in many cases justifiably. However, in millions of cases, we can do something about our condition.

It is necessary for us to begin to control our economic resources. We will have to cure ourselves of our addictions, we have to syphon off the millions of dollars we spend on numbers, dream books, fortune tellers and the like, and channel those funds towards improving our economic worth. This money can better the quality of life for us as an ethnic group, with better homes, health care facilities, institutions of learning for children as well as adults.

We have to change our attitude towards one another, stop being the rugged individual thinking of self only, and think about the growth of the entire community.

Have we ever given serious thought to our plight, we would begin to see how others see us. We cannot blame them, if they are not heeding our plea for justice and equality, if we make no sacrifices ourselves. Sacrifices that will not hurt us, but enhance us as a people.

If every African American in this country would stop gambling away our money all at once, it would not hurt us. In fact, it would help us economically, politically and in every other way.

The few jobs we would lose as a result of withdrawing from the betting arena, would easily be compensated for in economic gains. These gains would make us the employer, instead of employee. We could hire all of those laid off with some meaningful employment because of our withdrawal.

We would immediately feel a real sense of political clout, not only because we are the largest ethnic minority in this country, but because we would then have the economic power to back up our strength in numbers.

That is why other ethnic groups in this country are able to get favorable legislation passed by the politicians when they request it. They use the power of the dollar.

We cannot afford to throw our dollar away as we see them doing, because they are already established. We have yet to establish ourselves economically, and even if we were established, we should not gamble because it