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'God Bless You, Jesse'

Some saw it as a political stunt. Others predicted he would jeopardize U.S. diplomatic policy and uttered dire warnings that his trip to Syria would be "disastrous," and he would make grave mistakes with his "dubious" diplomacy.

But Rev. Jesse Jackson called his mission a law-abiding, moral and peaceful commitment. He was not dissuaded. He led a prayerful entourage of 21, including religious leaders, to Damascus to seek release of U.S. Navy Lt. Robert Goodman, held hostage since December 4th, when his jet was shot down over Syrian-controlled Lebanon.

This week, there has been world-wide acclaim of Rev. Jackson's trip, because it was a success, and because he is a contender for President of the United States, the first black man to seek the nation's highest office.

Other presidential hopefuls and President Reagan have graciously praised Rev. Jackson's daring efforts. Lt. Goodman is safe at home in Virginia Beach with his family after an official welcome at the White House.

But, already, the majority press and other commentators have begun to belittle Rev. Jackson. He scored a political coup, they say, but is he capable?

Black citizens should not be surprised. Those who have suffered through the early civil rights struggles have seen such disparagement of their leaders before. They remember another black Baptist minister, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and the treatment he experienced when he initiated the Montgomery bus boycott, back in the days when the only media exposure he could get was in the columns of this newspaper which kept a direct line to his offices.

The facts are clear: — Rev. Jesse Jackson went on an adventurous crusade, never before undertaken by an individual. He dramatically illustrated that negotiation can work between representatives of two nations, and gained the release of our imprisoned navy officer. He has urged President Reagan to keep the lines open by meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, now mayor of Atlanta, views the Jackson appeal as illustrating that if we have to live in a world with essentially hostile forces, we have to have a direct relationship with them even if they are hostile.

Of Rev. Jackson's trip, he remarked, "What Jesse did was to offer the potential of some diplomatic initiatives that hopefully the President of the United States and Congress will follow, and get us out of the mess in Lebanon."

To that we say, Amen!

And, we echo here the words of the crowd which greeted Rev. Jackson and his associates as they landed Wednesday at Andrews Air Force Base with Lt. Goodman safe and sound, "God bless you, Jesse Jackson."

Another Tragic Reminder

For the second time in a month, residents of a Baltimore City row house died in an early morning fire. The January 3rd blaze in the 800 block W. Cross St. claimed the lives of a woman, 68; her daughter, 26; her 4-month-old son, and a cousin, 10, all found trapped on the third floor.

Five children and three adults were killed in a December 9th disaster at their 3-story home in the 1100 block N. Monroe St.

Fire officials believe both blazes may have been caused by smoking and that both originated in a first floor sofa. In both instances, there was no smoke detector.

There are other similarities — both the Monroe St. and Cross St. residences were occupied by large family groups — the Monroe St. residents were black, the Cross St. residents were white. Both family groups had limited means.

As they did for last month's victims, Baltimoreans have expressed citywide sympathy and offered aid to the victims.

Since the Fire Department has indicated a smoke detector, in working order, could have made a difference, we would hope that concerned citizens would initiate a program to help their neighbors secure the required smoke detectors and subsidize them for those who can not afford them.

This would be a good deed which could save lives, especially since city officials announced this week they plan strict enforcement of the law requiring smoke detectors in all city residences.

Sports-See-Saw Syndrome

In our town in 1983, sports fans fed on the emotions of frustration and mediocrity to joy and jubilation and back again for Afro fans.

Beginning with a winter of college basketball, professional soccer and ending with fall football and hockey, it was truly a see-saw experience.

The disaster, through no fault of their own, fell on the athletic teams at Morgan and Coppin.

The priorities insisted upon by the state in administering funds for the operation of their programs left college athletic officials at the mercy of neighboring schools in the important areas of recruiting and scheduling—two things that are vital in any sports oriented university's hope of attracting desirable student athletes.

But some emotional balance was gained when the Blast came within two goals of winning the major league indoor soccer title.

It was fully restored and, in fact tipped in the direction of joyous frenzy when the Orioles won the American League pennant and erased the Philadelphia Phillies in five games in the World Series.

But then came football and with football an erratic ownership. And then again was a see-saw jigg-saw.

The team enjoyed a surprisingly good season, winning 7 of 16 games. But, despite two talented running backs, the turnstiles were not consistent.

Outstanding choices were Vernon Maxwell and Chris Hinton. And fans don't buy tickets to watch linebackers and guards perform.

The Skipjacks hockey season ended with one end of the see-saw up in the air, the fans' end. Why? Maybe it is because Afro fans don't dig ice hockey; maybe it's because they have a hard time relating to lily white.

Madeline MURPHY

Moving into 1984 and mind control

Moving into the first ten days of 1984, one gets closer to what George Orwell prophesized about government control of the media.

Because we cannot help but wonder as the local media reviewed the past year, how little was devoted to one of the Hottest Summers Baltimore has seen, weather being only one of the reasons—where 30 minute hate campaigns were carried out from time to time from the incumbent's camp.

Leaving familial biases (as best as one can) aside, it would seem that the political arena should have held some front and center play, especially from May to September in regard to a resurgence of political activity, heavily debated (so obviously reported in a biased, slanted way) especially in the black community.

And perhaps that is the key to a more ominous racist condition alive and well in Baltimore and the body politic.

That condition being a managed press, both from the standpoint of ignoring those contentious five months, where every day, media happenings centered around the mayoral race, moving to front page off and on, and yet from the political January first review in the Sunday paper, political news was devoted to a convicted politician, Wally Orlinsky, who received far more coverage than he deserved, but then he's not going anywhere.

Saturday's paper brought the campaign to its most debased analysis when the contender was listed editorially among the "losers", without further comment on the impact his campaign made.

Evident in this stance seems to be the broader problem of Baltimore that says that anything critical, anything negative about Baltimore, if ignored will on its own inertia just fade away.

Take for example the hue and cry over a Los Angeles newsman who dared to criticize Baltimore after the Orioles won the penant. He implied that Baltimore was a "one horse" town, and the onslaught of vengefulness it engendered was so childish. One can see the chauvanism this boosterism has developed, that smacks so much of an inferiority complex—Harbor Place, notwithstanding—suggesting a similar Hitlerian theme: "Deutschland (Baltimore) uber alles". Maybe that's Orwellian!

This would be amusing if it weren't so deep-seated.

Because Baltimore cannot survive on booster mentality, trekking to Washington with charts, or launching an Adopt a Family program, or Blue Chip-in, or serving breakfast, lunch and dinner one day at Our Daily Bread, cannot solve the problems of the majority of Baltimore's poor, hungry and homeless. Solutions require plans; input from the people served; goals and objectives.

Against this background, one reflecting on 1983, finds the irony after the election, of revelations about Baltimore's black single parent families, their poverty, the stereotypical generalizations of promiscuity, indigence, indolence, desertion, a slap in the face of a community just recovering from the deep disappointment and hurt of a mayoral defeat (fostered by the same white press) of hope that somewhere there might be someone who would set changes in motion in these deplorable conditions that had been allowed to fester over more than a decade.

This in itself shows on the one hand, the way news is manipulated to support those in power, and on the other hand, how there is no desire, nor plan, nor integrity in a medium that will not satisfy the public's need to know in a timely manner, without fear or favor.

That newspapers own TV stations, only confounds this perfidy.

Prating all the while about the public's need to know, they continue to be false to their trust under the first amendment.

More sinister than this of course is the spread of racism as an off shoot of fear: that once the sleeping giant shakes off the debilitation of ticks and fleas—the shills and pimps—power shall indeed be wrested and rightly so, by the black majority population. For beware...

Everything written by the white media about us, is destined to make us believe we aren't worthy; ergo, not read!

Furthermore, the collusion between the press and government; the press and the utility companies; the interlocking directorates of the banking community; the caucuses in the private clubs do indeed throttle the ability of a free society to protect and hold fast to its freedoms with this kind of mind control. Already, also, we are closely monitored by way of instant computer information, through credit institutions, and banks, regardless of the pledges of confidentiality, who readily give up information to the highly technical Internal Revenue Service, when then, flouting the Privacy Act, spreads this information around to other government agencies who direct the disbursals of entitlement program funds.

Our telephone calls are easily monitored, with information that can be skewed, passed along to further entrap us. More and more, people who use the phone caution, "I'd rather not discuss this on the phone; someone might be listening."

The sophistication of listening devices goes beyond that however, when a device can be pointed at a person's house ten feet away and conversations can be clearly heard and recorded at the same time. The rumor is that City Hall has been monitoring calls for years. Long live Centrex! More chilling is the surveillance possibility of Cable TV.

And so the interlocking collusion between government, news and industrial communities, as spies, informants, information gatherers, purveyors of fear, makes us more vulnerable to totalitarianism, to a police state.

This, though sinister enough, is even more pervasive when the nightly news, performed by talking heads merely regurgitates the party line, out of laziness, ignorance, insecurity or fear, or all of the above, where they refuse to dissect the news, only parrot each other further slanting the news.

Why shouldn't they, when Big Brother, those multi millionaire news owners, robber barons of the media, are so powerful that there is no room for divergence, diversity or just plain integrity in telling the truth?

Finally, the sad part of all of this is our unwitting collusion when we believe without question what we read in the paper; or hear on the radio; or see on TV, without doing some fact finding on our own, before we accept what we hear to be gospel truth; before we start passing it on as the sacred word.

Yes, without our vigilance, 1984 can well usher in a total surveillance society, whose scalpel has been craftily honed, to excise our freedom and do radical surgery on our democracy, frail as it is, with the Fourth Estate as butchers.

Big Brother is not only watching us, he is controlling our minds!

Letters

Farewell to a Lady

Dear AFRO:

This is a tribute to a lady. Except for the tragic fire, it is not likely that her name would have made news. Her name is Gilda Mae Pumphrey. She was the thirty-one year old mother killed in the recent fire on Monroe Street.

Some have asked, "Why were so many of them crowded into that house?" You see, Gilda cared for her own children and also three children of her brother, who is incarcerated. Gilda was the oldest child in her family and had helped rear her five younger brothers and sisters, for their mother was often ill.

I have heard some negative comments made about the fire by some of the more affluent members of our community. Few of them, black or white, have little interest in those who live in the hard core inner city, except to move as far away from them as possible.

Gilda Mae Pumphrey is remembered by those who knew her as a warm-hearted, loving person. Her door was always open to any one in need. So, today, I salute a lady and say farewell to a sister.

MARY CARTER SMITH

Fifteen ways to ruin a child

Dear AFRO:

I read with interest (as I always do) your "15 Ways to Ruin a Child" in Friday's AFRO. It was an excellent piece, and every parent should read it. However, when you spoke about the evils of smoking, I could not help but laugh. Of course, in all fairness, you spoke about a parent doing it in the presence of a child — so maybe that saved you. Keep up your excellent messages to the people.

ROBERT I. H. HAMMERMAN

Dundalk thanks

Dear AFRO:

I would personally like to thank the AFRO-AMERICAN for the coverage given the Dundalk Community College-sponsored event entitled "Where Do We Go From Here? A Conference for the Unemployed" that drew over 900 people on-campus to receive needed services. Without your efforts, that would not have happened.

Thank you again.

BLAINE TAYLOR

NAACP REPORT: About the black family

By Magdalene Fennell

Recently The Evening Sun printed a series of articles on black homes without fathers. The articles were graphic and "stereotypic." They exploited to a tasteless degree, the frustrations and miseries of poor, black young men and women. The writer, Mark Arax, emphasized all of the negative aspects of teenage parenthood. He dramatized the welfare syndrome passed down from generation to generation.

Some blacks, particularly those who have not developed pride in their blackness, were embarrassed by the reports. Others were angered. Significant numbers were convinced that the articles represented yet another attempt to perpetuate the myth that blacks are the only ones on welfare; that black men father children indiscriminately; and that young, black women have babies to get rich off the welfare system.

Long before the articles appeared in the paper, Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, announced that the association will host a summit meeting of black individuals and organizations to formulate plans for dealing with "the escalating number of poor, black female-headed households as well as the growing incidence of teenage pregnancies."

Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine and Assistant Secretary of Labor under the Carter Administration, chairs the NAACP Board Committee on the Black Family.

Dr. Hooks feels that many black groups are handling "pieces of the problem." A summit is needed, however, to take an "in depth" look at the problems and their solutions. He further believes that strengths do exist in black American families and that these strengths can be utilized to effect "meaningful solutions" to the crisis.

According to Hooks, the causes of the crisis are rooted in "historical and continuing conditions of American racism within which black families have struggled since the early 1600's."

Last Sunday Congressman Parren J. Mitchell addressed a capacity Jubilee Day crowd at Enon Baptist Church. He labeled the Sun series racist and attributed the black family crisis to racism and the inability of blacks to find gainful employment. It is certain that given a choice most blacks would gladly trade "luxurious welfare living" for a good job.

Bishop John Hurst Adams, stressed the importance of blacks working together to help each other. After reading about fatherless homes, many individuals and organizations have become involved in the struggles of the victims. They seek solutions to a problem that threatens to confine another generation of blacks to poverty and instability.

Noted poet and actress, Maya Angelou, uses as a theme in many of her presentations the ability of blacks, women in particular, to survive obstacles placed in their paths and indignities heaped upon them.

This ability to survive is a positive trait that has enabled us to move mountains since our emancipation. The black men and women featured in the Sun series have learned to survive. This trait will stand them in good stead when they seek to move from despair to hope. All blacks can take pride in the fact that we are a race of survivors.

Samuel BANKS: Urgent imperatives for black Americans in 1984 and beyond

Each of us, in his - her own peculiar way, has now bid adieu to 1983. No amount of reminiscing, nostalgia or florid incantations can return the realities of the frustrations, disappointmerts, joys or happy episodes associated with 1983. The fact is 1983 is now past history. Alfred Lord Tennyson expresses the thought cogently and poignantly. "The tender grace of a day that is dead can never come back to me."

As we reflect on 1983 and ponder the human possibilities of 1984, I extend a bountiful and geniune HAPPY NEW YEAR. The time is now at hand for us as black people to get serious about the issues of survival, the overall quality of life and the sharing of power in the American body politic.

In this conjunction, as we start the new year, there are crucial and impelling areas that must be addressed fully and forthrightly if we are to function as respected and equal citizens in our nation.

We must understand that sagacity perspicacity and "SMARTS," in isolation, will not guarantee us free access and power in Baltimore and the nation. We must be relentless and untiring in utilizing our God-given talents, abilities and creativity, as other ethnic and racial groups have done, to improve and extend human and civil rights for ALL PEOPLE. I am suggesting FIVE URGENT LOCAL AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES THAT WE MUST PURSUE AND IMPLEMENT NOW.

1. POLITICAL POWER

The distribution of scarce resources, the amount of disposable income available, how fiscal resources are expended and for whom, in fact, flow from having POLITICAL POWER. THE UNSETTLING REALITY IS THAT AT PRESENT THE WHITE MINORITY OF BALTIMORE CONTROLS THE BLACK MAJORITY. If the majority black population of Baltimore is to achieve its fair share of the "GOODIES" of this city, then, it must acquire political muscle.

The concept of majoritarian politics, stretching back to the Mayflower compact of 1620, is endemic to the American social order. Where ethnic and racial groups are in a majority, it has been traditional and logical that they have chosen thembers of their group in proportion to their number. Seizing political power, via the ballot and majoritarian politics, is essential if amelioration, vertical mobility and uplift and solidarity are to be achieved for blacks in Baltimore and elsewhere. Moreover, persons elected to office must be held accountable.

2. FULL UNEMPLOYMENT

We must be uncompromising in our insistence on the elimination of a growing, PERMANENT UNDERCLASS in our society made up primarily of blacks, Hispanics and the poor. Unemployment among black adults remain at nearly 20 percent and 55 percent for black youths. These disastrous levels of unemployment exist at a time that the Gross National Product (i.e., sum total of goods and services produced in a calendar year) is the highest in the history of our nation. THERE WILL NOT BE COMMUNITY TRANQUILITY WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS AMONG BLACKS AND HISPANICS EXCEED THE LEVEL OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

3. HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION

Education for the overwhelming number of Black, Hispanic and poor children across the nation, Baltimore included, remains largely custodial and fraught with puffery. In all of the 35 states where competency tests are in place, Black, Hispanic and poor children are situated at the lowest percentiles in terms of test results. Black students, in point of fact, are at the NADIR—the very bottom.

It is not that black students are educable, but that a local, state and national commitment has not been made to challenge this population and provide the monetary and human resources necessary to achieve excellence. The tragic reality is that we stand now on the verge of losing a generation of black, Hispanic and poor youngsters throughout our nation. We are paying for this bleak state of affairs in terms of proliferating and enormous deviant and anti-social behavior.

The Kerner Commission Report, issued 15 years ago provided a challenge for all Americans:

"Education in a democratic society must equip the children of the nation to realize their potential and to participate fully in American life. For the community at large, the schools have discharged this responsibility well. But for many minorities, and particularly for the children of the racial ghetto, the schools have failed to provide the educational experience which could help overcome the effects of discrimination and deprivation. This failure is one of the persistent sources of grievance and resentment within the Negro community. The hostility of Negro parents and students toward the school system is generating increasing conflict and causing disruption within the many city school districts (p. 425)."

Black parents, clergy, elected officials, sororities, fraternal groups and civic groups, in concert with other concerned citizens, must demand HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN. EDUCATION, UNLIKE A PHYSICAL STRUCTURE TORN DOWN, ONCE DENIED OR LOST, CANNOT BE REGAINED.

4. DECENT, SAFE AND SANITARY HOUSING

There is no substitute for decent, safe and sanitary housing for all citizens. Here in Baltimore, as is indicative of other large sprawling urban centers, over 40,000 people are in need of decent, safe and sanitary housing. Adequate housing is a necessity and must be kept before elected officials, at all levels, for concrete action.

5. HEALTH CARE

Poor health care logically flows from an insufficiency of the other four (4) areas cited as URGENT IMPERATIVES. The health care delivery system for blacks, Hispanics, the elderly and the poor, too, should command very serious attention in 1984.

There are, of course, other compelling issues that need to be addressed with alacrity in 1984. However, I believe that a mobilization of intelligence, toughness, tenacity and spirit will enable us as a people, under a siege of Reaganomics and institutional racism and exclusion, to "GET OVER" or MOVE FORWARD.

Support for the "Victory Celebration" in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would be an auspicious starting point for 1984. The activities of the Victory Celebration are under the aegis of Baltimore's illustrious Griot, Mrs. Mary Carter Smith, Founder of the Citizens' Coalition for Urban Survival, Inc. The current President of the Citizens' Coalition is Ms. Toni Presbury. The Coalition plans a rally on Saturday, Jan. 14 from 12 noon until 3 p. m.; a Prayer Vigil on Jan. 14 at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Reverend Bernard Keels, Pastor; a Victory Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 15, 1983 at Huber Memorial United Church of Christ (Alameda and 29th St.)

Other activities include a program of Celebration at Huber United Church of Christ featuring former Judge William Murphy, Jr., Councilman Kweisi Mfume, Tea Montier, Mary Carter Smith, Griot, and Reverend Bernard Keels. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. Special activities, too, will be held at the Broadway, Forest Park and Pennsylvania Avenue Branch Libraries. Any questions relative to any of the activities should be directed to Mrs. Bernetta W. Archer at 426-2793 or 594-8348344. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES.

Finally, I believe with all my heart and mind that, collectively, is we mobilize our talents, energies and abilities for the common good, we can cause the socio-economic, political and educational storms, to pass over. WE ONLY HAVE TO BELIEVE AND GET TO WORK.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. ABOVE ALL, HOLD FAST.

If it's East Baltimore...

A friend of mine from Nigeria, a large and potentially rich West African nation, once said to me, "America is a no-man's land, it's there for anybody bold enough to take it". "Americans are not like any other people in the world; they dream dreams and then they do it."

His inference is that other people, by and large, just do the dreaming. This somewhat general and admittedly simplistic view can easily and successfully be argued against; nevertheless embodied in the bold accomplishments is the essence of much of what lies at the heart of the American social darwinistic character.

The American way can be defined thusly: "define the problem once, just once, and then let us spend the rest of our time crafting solutions." Wherever this method is applied significant things have happened. So, if it's East Baltimore it must be America, because a whole lot of significance have happened in East Baltimore of late.

In East Baltimore a brand new city is being built, the result of boldly laying claim to a piece of American city turf and then staking it out to make dreams into reality. To see the rebuilding is (here sarcastically treated) that every blade of grass in East Baltimore has not been renovated, or that Harbor Place isn't located "down-the-bottom" on the corner of Fayette and Caroline Streets.

On this business of claiming a piece of American turf, what East Baltimore is becoming again is what it was many years before; for some of the same reasons and for different one's too. Not too many years ago the east side belonged to a polyglot of peoples; Jews, Italians, Polocks, blacks, and others.

That very small part bordered roughly by Chase Street on the North, Broadway on the East, Gay Street creating a wedged boundary on the West, and Fayette Street on the South was where the blacks lived.

Of course then we were condescendingly and emotionally called colored as in "that colored boy"; when respectfully though always coldly spoken or written of termed The Negro; and in everyday calm "closed talk" along with the public frequent white heat of instantaneous anger or the constancy of their disgust, dashed to the "dirty floor" like raw bloody meat as them G— d— niggers.

Back then very few if any of us lived anywhere but East Baltimore, if we lived in this city at all. By fiat and for the sake of convenience, they knowing that we would watch their property better than they would watch it themselves, we were allowed some control in the small area of East Baltimore that we physically occupied, with our heavy overlay; because no one not black who could at all afford to live elsewhere chose to live among us.

Even then we didn't own the turf. Neither did we police it, underwrite it, or finance it; though through our consumer attitude we did provide the revenues for those who did.

But, by the very millieu of our pervasive comings and goings, odors and fragrances, cuttin-the-fool antics, and Sunday go-to-meetin aires, we laid claim to East Baltimore (an area always smaller in perceptions than in actual geographic measurement).

It really wasn't until after the Korean War that anyone among us began to even think, with any seriousness, about the possibility of participating in, to say nothing of controlling, any area wide power levers.

Before that time the most significant people around were the few black medical doctors, some of the preachers; Bake Top Red and his buddy Snappy Murray, two dandies who had been rendered prominent as pimps.

What has changed has been as much the factors external to East Baltimore as anything that went on inside. These larger exterior legal, racial, and economic changes where pounced on by mostly street wise smart men and women who coupled their skills with vision, scope, and oddly above all honesty.

What these people did with the money and the other resources that came their way, in East Baltimore, is a story of the dream come true.

(To Be Continued)

COMMENTARY:

By Anthony Armstrong

...it must be America

AFRO SURVEY

What's your reaction to Jesse Jackson's exploit?

Joyce Brown

Mary Dunton

Lois Jeffries

Annie Gregg

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "What do you think about Jesse Jackson's involvement in the release of Lt. Goodman?"

Joyce Brown, 30, secretary, "I think it's great that he took the time out to travel to Syria and become involved. It definitely will have some influence on his political campaign, most likely a positive influence. It did not change my opinion of Rev. Jackson because I have always had a high one of him."

Mary Dunton, 33, secretary, "It was a very important gesture. It shows that aside from the fact that he's black, he's capable of performing and negotiating from a humanitarian point of view. He took the time out of his life to go over and negotiate when our own president didn't think it was important enough to place it on the agenda for consideration."

Lois Jeffries, 29, secretary, "It's good for the guy that was released. I think somebody should have gotten involved with the situation whether it was Rev. Jackson or not. I think it just happened that Jesse Jackson was the one to get involved."

Annie Gregg, 50, secretary, "The way I look at it, anything is good when you're trying to save someone. I think Jesse Jackson should have gotten involved. He got the man released didn't he?"

Carolyn Burrell, 27, secretary, "It was a good thing that happened. The situation was very serious and it was a brave move on behalf of Jesse. Our country's officials weren't as responsible as they should have been."

Ray Bell, 54, education specialist, "It was a very good accomplishment. It shows that Jesse picks an issue and goes after it. I have developed a view of him far different than I ever have before. I just had no idea of his understanding of foreign policy."

Thomas Delaney, 40, music coordinator, "A very good move on Jesse's part. The release of Goodman was important. It really was unfair of the Syrians to have captured him and, held him, for he was not captured under true war time experiences. You can bet Jesse's campaign will be affected. It will be helped."

Alice Morgan, 41, math specialist, "Jesse Jackson's involvement was very important I think. Usually we react when a large number of people are involved, but one soul is just as important as a lot of them. I've always had high expectations of Jesse and will continue to.

Carolyn Burrell

Ray Bell

Thomas Delaney

Alice Morgan

Letter to the Editor

'Stupid theft'

It's no accident that Walter Williams column, was similar to Wm. F. Buckley's printed in the New York News the week of December 17th!.

Did Walter Williams bring these quotes to Mr. Buckleys' attention or did he steel and use Mr. Buckley's idea?

Mr. Williams' statement regarding the illegitmate use of government power to take from one citizen and give to another- When a government takes from citizens, tax dollars and give grants to Israel, that do not have to be repaid, what kind of action does he call this?

Affirmative or not?

I would like to read his answer to this, Plus—With all of the mentioned handkerchief heads-knowledge, research and rhetoric, what good are they doing for Black Folk or any Folk in Jesus' name?

EVELYN ROBINSON

The winds of war have been glamorized and popularized by too many motion pictures in recent months and years. Isn't it ironic that although the United States government professes peace it exports so many motion pictures of war?

Isn't it ironic that although the United States government professes peace, it readily exports so many weapons of war? The winds of war are being summoned, introduced, produced, and hoped for by the people of evil and deception.

Greedy, ruthless people hope for war and do their best to create war so that they can make "big" money as they profit on the death, destruction, and misery of human beings.

However, the winds of war are not our hope. We are people of love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice. We are human beings.

We must be firm and resolute and always be our true, natural selves. We have been negatively stimulated, bombarded, and improperly motivated toward evil and individual as well as collective destruction.

We have been programmed to thinking more about war materials instead of the raw materials that are necessary for positive human growth and survival.

FROM SEED TO FRUIT:

Emancipate ourselves in 1984

By Charles Dugger

Some of us have become so indoctrinated into the contrived paranoia of communism and foreign aggression against the United States that we have ignored and - or accepted the unjust and immoral aggression of the United States government in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua and El Salvador as well as in Grenada in the Caribbean.

The government of the United States with its mammoth military-industrial complex and with its tolerance for sexual perversion is the chief warmonger and whoremonger in the world today.

To the best of my knowledge, the British historian, Arnold Toynbee, states that nineteen out of twenty-one civilizations were destroyed from within. He stated that it was not foreign aggression or intervention that destroyed these civilizations, but it was the civilizations that destroyed themselves from within.

However, the winds of war, evil, deception, and destruction are not our hope. We are people of construction, instruction, and structure although a great number of us have lost our sense of direction and our knowledge and understanding of self-worth.

We have spent too much time in fantasyland, in wonderment, in awe, and in decadence trying to be something that we are not. Alice was confused in Wonderland, and the story of "Alice in Wonderland" was confusing.

Let us not be confused by Alice's Wonderland or this wonderland of deception that we find ourselves in now. We have spent too much time trying to tolerate that which is intolerable. We have spent too much time in selfishness instead of selflessness. We have spent too much time trying to make sense out of nonsense.

It is said that the mark of the beast is coming. Perhaps, it is already here.

Brothers and sisters, evil does not seem to be an ugly and repulsive force to too many of us. On the contrary, evil appears to be attractive and compulsive. Evil seems to become so good to some of us that it becomes an addiction.

Consequently, we cannot or dont want to let evil go. The truth of the matter is that we can and must let evil go if we want to survive as a people.

As Roberta Flack sang in her song, "Go Up Moses" "...All we have to do to let go, is let go!"

We have been a host for the parasite for too long.

We have been a prey for the predator for too long.

We have been a victim for the vampire for too long.

We must recognize and learn from what has been done to us as a people. We must own up to the fact that to a very significant degree we have allowed ourselves to be victimized.

In his "Redemption Song", Bob Marley told us, "Emancipate ourselves from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds. Have no fear for atomic energy because none of that can stop the time."

It is long overdue that we return to being people of love, truth, peace, freedom and justice.

We have stayed at the Caucasian's amusement park too long. We have mused, bemused, been amused, and gotten totally confused. Are we coming home or are we going to stay in the amusement park?

Why do we want to dwell in death instead of life? Why do we accept injustice instead of demanding justice? Why do we dwell in chaos instead of peace? Why do we tolerate deception instead of truth? Why do we want to dwell on the negative instead of the positive?

It is now Jan. 1984. The new year is a time of resolution and commitment. Let us absolve ourselves from apathy, ignorance, evil, and confusion. Let us resolve to do all that we can to make a better world.

Let us do all we can to make a better world. Our children are our future. They are waiting for us to love, guard, and guide them. Are we coming home or are we going to stay at the amusement park?