Baltimore Afro-American

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Kentucky Fried expansion

With jobs — especially for minorities and youth — one of the major economic problems facing America's cities, the recent announcement that Kentucky Fried Chicken is expanding throughout Baltimore is welcome news indeed.

The $28.5 million expansion program here will add about 1,700 jobs in the metro area — and most importantly — 1,200 of those jobs will be in 57 new KFC restaurants located in Baltimore City itself.

The creation of new jobs is important news, of course, but it's only part of the story. Kentucky Fried Chicken is an industry leader in equal employment and promotion opportunities.

Based on its record in other cities and its plans for Baltimore, we feel sure that minorities will fill 40 percent of the jobs in its stores and about 50 percent of the management positions here.

Thanks to company's training and career advancement program, employees can follow a five-step job ladder from trainee to assistant store manager and later can move up to store manager and beyond to area or district management.

The expansion will also strengthen Baltimore's economy through tax payments and local purchases of goods and services. KFC purchases from other companies here will grow from today's $560,000 annually to some $2.2 million annually in 1987.

KFC plans to build company-owned stores inside Baltimore and open franchisee-owned units in the County where start-up and daily operating costs are lower for independent small businessmen and women franchisees than in the city.

Two black residents of Baltimore already have KFC franchises and more will be granted to other black entrepreneurs.

Prison staffing and security

Last week's violent incident at the Maryland State Penitentiary raises some serious and disturbing questions about the administration of this state's correctional institutions. One officer is dead and two others seriously injured due to what one of the injured officers called inadequate staffing and poor security procedures.

The administration of the correctional system says that it has taken steps to alleviate some of the procedural deficiencies that led to the incident, but the labor organizations representing the guards are calling for the resignation of the warden, assistant warden, and chief of security. One group, MCEA, said that the prison administrators had the blood of Officer Toulson on their hands.

The unions insist that the only way that morale can be restored among correctional officers is through a change of administration. Anything less will not satisfy the officers who, according to MCEA, had continually sent memos to administrators about the understaffing of the prison, especially in the South wing where the most uncontrollable and dangerous prisoners are kept. The union also wants an investigation by the Attorney General's office.

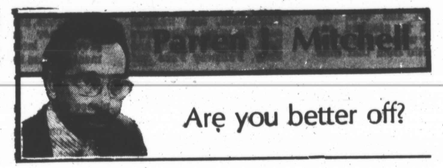
Perhaps some type of in-depth investigation is needed. The warden of the penitentiary, according to the officers, sharply reduced overtime hours leading to severe understaffing. Is this some type of budget trimming?

Public safety is not an area where dollars should be the top priority. If more correctional officers are needed they should be hired. This state has budget surpluses each year and appears to be healthy enough financially to provide an adequate staff for its prisons.

The question should be fully answered that are raised by the unions about the responsiveness of the penitentiary administration to the vital concerns of security and officer and inmate safety.

If the administrators were guilty of negligence and incompetence then they should dismissed. If they were not to blame they should be cleared by an impartial investigator who will be believed by the guards.

Only when the matter is examined and acted on forthrightly will the crisis in the state penitentiary begin to abate.



Are you better off?

If you are black, and are making less than $80,000 a year, recently released figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Department of Labor, the Congressional Budget Office, and other leading research organizations indicate clearly that you are not.

The shocking results of these analyses reveal that black Americans in every income strata, from the poorest to the most affluent, lost ground and had less income in 1984 after adjusting the inflation) than in 1980, when President Reagan took office. Let's look at some of the findings that support this claim.

From 1980 to 1983, the income of the typical black family of four fell by 5.3 percent. No other population group lost so heavily. Last year, 9.9 million black Americans — nearly 36 percent of the black population or 1 of every 3 blacks — lived in poverty.

This is the highest black poverty rate since the Census Bureau began collecting data on black poverty in 1966.

The proportion of the black population added to the poverty ranks since 1980 — 1.3 million — is almost twice that of the white population that fell into poverty during this same period.

In recent months, there has been much talk about the gains made by all due to the economic recovery. Let us not be misled. Contrary to what Reagan tells us, blacks are being left further and further behind. Let's look briefly at unemployment.

White unemployment, now at 6.4 percent, is lower than at the beginning of the Reagan term (when it was 6.7 percent). Black unemployment, 16 percent in August 1984, is higher than when Reagan took office (when it was 14.4 percent).

The figures on long - term unemployment (persons out of work for at least 6 months but still looking for a job) are even more extraordinary. The number of white long - term unemployed as counted by the Labor Department has increased by a mere 1.5 percent.

On the other hand, the number of blacks who have joined the ranks of the long - term unemployed has grown an astronomical 72 percent since Reagan took office. As a result, one - third of all the long - term unemployed in the U.S. are now black.

In addition to declining incomes, increases in black poverty, and catastrophic unemployment levels, budget and tax policies of the Reagan administration have further widened the income gap between blacks and whites.

An analysis of the budget cuts on a program - by - program basis revealed that the federal programs cut most deeply by the Reagan administration are those in which the largest percentages of participants are black.

These programs include: jobs and training programs, food stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), school lunch and child nutrition, compensatory education financial aid to needy students, subsidized housing and legal services, and the list goes on.

Because the black poverty rate is 36 percent, nearly triple the poverty rate for whites, blacks tend to participate in, and rely on, programs for low and moderate income families more heavily than do whites.

Black Americans comprise 12 percent of the overall U.S. population, but they make up 30 to 40 percent of the beneficiaries of most of the low income programs that were cut most severely.

Now let's take a look at what the President's tax policies have done for black Americans.

A family of four living at the poverty line paid $269 in federal taxes in 1978, $460 in 1980, and today must pay $1,076.

Families below the poverty line, most of which were exempted from federal income tax before Reagan took office because of their very low incomes, have been hurt also.

The number of those living below the poverty line who are required to pay federal income tax has more than doubled since 1980. Thus, those same families hit hardest by the budget cuts have also been hit by large tax increases that further reduce their limited incomes.

The sharpest tax increases have fallen on the poorest 20 percent of U.S. families, resulting in a dramatic shift in the federal tax burden.

Since blacks make up a large percentage of those who fall into the poorest 20 percent of the U.S. population (63 percent of all black families fall into the under $20,000 income category and 37 percent of black families fall into the under $10,000 income category) the tax burdens have not only shifted from upper to lower and moderate income groups — they have effectively been shifted from whites to blacks as well.

Is it a coincidence that Ronald Reagan's policies have been disproportionately devastating for black Americans? Can Ronald Reagan totally ignore these facts which have been presented by his own government agencies and other nonpartisan research organizations?

Can black people in this country survive another four years of Ronald Reagan and his plan for economic recovery?

Are you better off?

LETTERS

Child support clarification

I am writing in response to the article pertaining to child support enforcement which appeared in the September 15th edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper

While the article succinctly describes the need for increased child support enforcement, there are several issues which need clarification.

In calling for increased support enforcement, the article failed to mention the recent passing of federal legislation which will require states to withhold the wages of parents who refuse to pay child support.

Employers will be required to withhold child support payments from the earnings of parents whose payments are at least 30 days in arrears. This legislation will have a significant impact on child support services in Maryland.

The article also appeared to confuse the relationship between the Child Support Enforcement Administration and the "Coalition to Give a Child Support."

Ann Helton was cited as a member of the Maryland Commission for Women.

Mrs. Helton is the Executive Director of the Child Support Enforcement Administration, an administration of the Department of Human Resources, which is responsible for the state's child support program.

The daily activities of the program are carried out statewide by local departments of social services and other contracting agencies and include: locating absent parents, establishing paternity, establishing court orders for support, and enforcing delinquent support through wage liens and the interception of tax refunds and unemployment benefits.

The "Coalition to Give a Child Support" is not, as stated in the article, a division of the Maryland Commission for Women. The Coalition, which is open to the public, is made up of concerned citizens and advocates who are working to educate legislators about the problems of child support and the need for stronger child support enforcement legislation.

The Maryland Commission for Women is one of many groups statewide who are in support of the Coalition.

The Department of Human Resources applauds the AFRO for its efforts to publicize the problems of child support enforcement and the devastating effects these problems have on the families who rely on this support. Support such as yours will help pave the way for increased child support legislation.

RUTH MASSINGA

Boyse the root radical

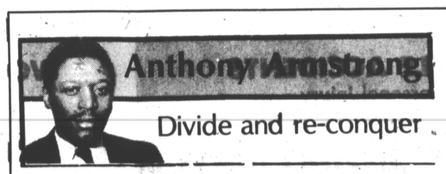
Boyse Mosely is at it again..."God bless him!" He is making basic demands on students as well as community to participate in the lofty task of learning. He is calling us to a sense of accountability if we are to help develop life's most precious gift—the mind.

Granted, he is abrasive to some, but abrasion is the stuff of which fine tuning and tooling comes to fore. Education does not come without a struggle; it comes as a result of discipline of the mind and the body.

For those who know a modicum of success the password has been competence and competence does not come about as a result of truancy. It comes because someone has worked at the cutting edge of the mind to sharpen and hone it for participation in the world of ideas and knowledge.

Boyse Mosely is a radical! Remember though, a radical is "one who gets at the root of." May his tribe increase to include students, teachers, administrators, parents and community. To summarize, someone has said, "if you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Marion C. Bascom



Anthony Armstrong

Divide and re-conquer

Power concedes nothing; never has, never will. Why should it? No one or group gives away power; no group, that is, but us.

For blacks, the giving back of previously won political power is not a matter of conscious commission; it is a matter of unconscious omission that is the result of relatively less political savvy among us, than is the case among the powerful political group.

The dominance enjoyed by one group over another is not always numerical and; in the case of blacks in Baltimore, where we are the dominate numerical force, the preeminence of the other group is based on their economic strength, and their better understanding of the processes of political power.

They understand (or instance, that a smaller numerical group can, if it is smart and crafty and if it has the help of traitors inside the larger group, maintain its control over the larger group.

In less sophisticated situations, the dominance of the smaller group over the larger group is maintained with guns and bullets. In such situations the need to out-think the larger group is reduced by the ability to outgun them.

South Africa is such a situation; the fact that South Africa is an entire nation and Baltimore only a city does not change the effectiveness of the tools used by the group that currently has the power to prevent the other group from gaining, in this case, its rightful power.

In the case of Baltimore, it is our rightful power because in a democracy the majority is supposed to rule. However, what's the old folks saying, "sure, the world owes you a living but you have to work damn hard to get it."

Sure, we have the majority but we must work damn hard to get ourselves to turn what is only potential power, by virtue of our superior numbers, into real power, by virtue of our knowledge of and willingness to exercise our right to vote.

We thus, are our own worse enemy in the two issues of single member city council districts and, though for somewhat different reasons, the issues of an elected school board.

We don't need single members city council districts; what we need are more blacks who are willing to go to the voting booths, to cast their vote.

The last election, in this city, showed clearly that had enough of us decided to vote smart we could have gained control of the city council.

Instead, we spent our political currency trying to elect a mayoral candidate that had a snowball chance in you-know-where of beating "the best" mayor in the country.

The attempt to convince blacks in Baltimore that single member city council districts are in our best interest is a trick by the dominate economic group (who see their opposition, which is you, getting smarter) to also maintain its political dominance.

the only way to do this is through the old political and social trick of divide and, in this case, re-conquer. With single member districts what you are going to see is a flood of would be politicians running around your neighborhood, trying to get you to vote for them.

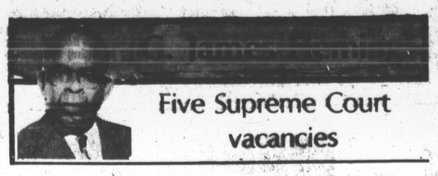
While this is happening, the other side will simply concentrate on one candidate of their persuasion and, they will elect that person while we go about the business of giving away our political power by splitting - up our majority voting strength among every Tom, Dick and, Harry.

Who's going to redraw the city council district lines? The answer is: the present members of the city council. Now I ask you, are they going to redraw city council district lines that will help us?

If you think they are, I've got a bridge in the Inner harbor I'd like to talk to you about. Again, no group gives away political power; no group, that is, but us.

Frankly, being a politician in Baltimore today is a little like the situation that the real estate industry experienced in this city a few years ago. Everyone, all of a sudden, became an "Instant" realtor.

Most of these people didn't know a split level house from a split in a woman's skirt. Today, everyone is a politician. With this situation the real politicians are in for a field day as they practice again divide and re-conquer.



Five Supreme Court vacancies

It cannot be stressed too often that one of the most important issues facing the current presidential campaign should be the issue of the U.S. Supreme Court and the vacancies which will be filled by Ronald Reagan when, as and if he is re-elected.

It has been written here before, but the Mondale forces have not been making any great point (scarcely any mention) of what will happen to the Supreme Court under more of Reagan. Not even the Rev. Jesse Jackson has made any "big deal" of this serious matter.

Nevertheless (at the risk of repetition), if the Republican ticket is reelected and especially if Reagan is president until 1988, there will be the sure opportunity, during this period, for the chief executive to appoint four or five justices of the nation's highest court.

Of the present composition of the Court, five justices are over 75 years of age, including the only black member, Thurgood Marshall; two are 77 and three are 78. By natural attrition or through retirement, it is rather a certainty that there will be some vacancies between now and 1988.

Everything we know of Reagan says that these vacancies will be filled by men and women in the Reagan image. More importantly, they will be filled by men and women picked by the several very conservative — yes, reactionary — power blocs which are supporting him.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell has already been credited with declaring that he and his followers will name the next Supreme Court justices.

In 1981, when President Reagan named the first woman to the court, Sandra O'Connor, he did exactly what was to be expected of him. He chose a conservative — and she is following a straight conservative line.

If she is joined by four or five more of her stripe — even three — the Supreme Court will be a Reagan - supporting court beyond recall.

This means that all the people - oriented and civil rights decisions of the past 20 to 30 years will be endangered, severely endangered — decisions protecting and enlarging the rights of the poor, of children, of women, and of racial, religious and ethnic minorities. The court will gradually be losing all vestiges of being liberal.

Reagan's impact on the Supreme Court (as on other areas of the society) cannot be measured only by his years in the White House! Also, since justices can serve to the end of their lives, a Reagan - weighted court will put its perhaps ultra - conservative stamp on the Constitution and related laws for years and and years into the future, long after Reagan has shuffled off this mortal soil.

Plessy versus Ferguson became the law of the land in 1896 and remained the law of the land for the next 58 years — until 1954.

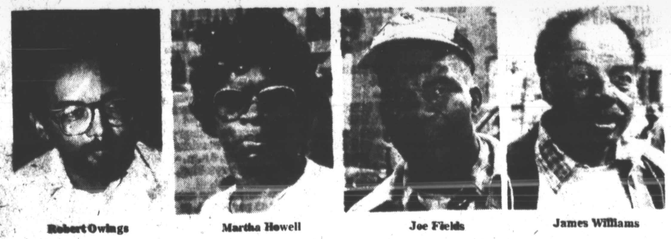
When, as and if President Reagan secures a solid majority in the Supreme Court, with the expected confirmation of a Republican Senate, then Reaganism will be felt for generations — politically, socially and economically — on every level of government, in the workplace, in places of public accommodation, and in educational institutions.

It will mean the turning of the clock back to the dark, oppressive, discrimination - ridden days of "separate but equal."

In the remaining days of the presidential campaign, democratic campaigners, the black press and the liberal press, and all those concerned about a people-centered Supreme Court — a balanced Court — should stress loudly that a vote for Reagan will be a vote to pack the Court and turn it over to the so - called "Moral Majority."

AFRO SURVEY

Your impression of the great debate?



Robert Owings — Martha Howell — Joe Fields — James Williams

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Do you think the presidential and vice-presidential debates have been serving any purpose?"

Winston Diggs, 30, unemployed, "Not really. First of all, I still do not have a job, and things do not look like they are going to get better after the debates. There have been other debates. Seems like a lot of time was wasted."

James Williams, 67, unemployed, "No. Debates are not serving any purpose. It is already understood that these rich candidates are not in favor of the poor. Regardless of the debates, they are going to put who they want in the White House.

Joe Fields, 68, retired, "Debates are quite helpful. You get to know the candidates and how they feel on certain issues. I, myself, am concerned about social security, and it seems the president doesn't care at all."

Martha Howell, 53, housewife, "Yes, debates are good. Mondale is good. I wouldn't have known I liked him unless I saw the debates."

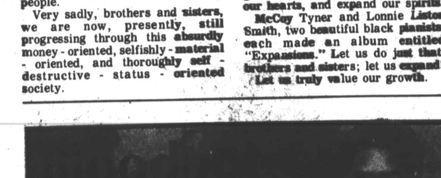
Brenda Cooper, 17, student, "I do not think they serve any purpose at all. They are no help."

Robert Owings, 44, artist "No, because politics at the high levels isn't where it should be. One thing that is missing is intelligence."

James Brewa, 53, special policeman, "If you believe what the candidates say, then debates are good. You can get a view of their ideas and stances.

Sheila Manning, 20, student, "I do not give them any attention, but I do think they are important sometimes. It helps to hear both candidates' points of view, to hear what promises they may make or break."

Sheila Manning — James Brown — Brenda Cooper — Winston Diggs



R. B. Jories

The Black Press

Despite incurring the wrath of some formidable members of the black community, my head remains bloody but unbowed. I have been taken to task by government officials, cultural czars and the holiest of holies, the black clergy within the last week and their behavior illustrates the very confused picture many people have of the role and responsibility of black journalists and black media.

Too many members of the black community expect the black press to be their handmaiden and selective advocate who exempts them from criticism. Black people, expect the black press, far far too many instances, to cater, unreasonably to their concerns and interests.

For example, students and other researchers call this newspaper expecting information over the phone regardless of the fact it might be deadline day or that the person answering the phone might be busy doing any number of essential tasks.

Members of the black community call wanting information about events or articles that appeared in the paper yesterday and don't want to buy the paper just to get that one bit of information. Only any research habit in Pan - African militarily brings me from using some of the choice phrases I know over the phone.

Others call wanting to know if the pictures of a certain social event are in the paper, because they don't want to waste the price of the paper if their or Aunt Bessie Mae's picture isn't in it. Do they really expect help when they have insulted the black press?

Many times people call and expect the black press to take up a cause or an issue that they will not take up. "Y'all should do something about that." "It's the job of the black press to expose that." Those words come from the other end of our telephone all too often. It seems that too many of our people want room service liberalism.

Far too many of our people ignore the black press until they encounter a problem and then they come running, expecting the call to battle to be sounded. Yet, they never consider the fact that when they sneeringly say, "I don't read the AFRO or some other black paper," they are slowly strangling themselves. By their lack of support for the black press, they are placing it in jeopardy. If the black press does not survive, a nightmare of overt racism will descend on this country. It is historical fact that racism prefers to operate away from scrutiny in dark and secret places. Without the black press, the tattered cloak of liberalism will completely fall away from much of the white media and racism will be exposed in its most grotesque form.

In addition to the mistaken idea that many people have about the black press being the handmaiden of the race, there are those, usually members of the elite, who view the black press as selective advocates. In their minds, the black press represents the militant tradition of community service and advocacy for the rights of the poor until the black press disagrees with them.

These types have a hot or cold perception of the black press. Either "You're for us or against us," is their attitude. Self-examination and the remote possibility that they might be wrong does not seem to be part of their mindset. Many of them are either hesitant or disdainful of using letters to the editor or op ed articles to express their displeasure. They seem enamored of the telephone call and the office visit. Perhaps these techniques provide an emotional release. They don't clarify the issue to the general readership because tactics only impact on a select audience.

Do these people expect a free ride to public opinion approval? I am constantly amazed by how few letters to the editor come to this paper. Many angry calls come and many visits with the purpose of getting the AFRO straight are made, but there is a strange paucity of letters. Perhaps this is attributable to the strong oral tradition in black culture, although I would suggest laziness as the primary culprit.

The black press should not be a selective advocate at the beck and call of only certain persons favoring certain positions. The black press should be an advocate for the collective good of the race first and humanity in general second. It will not be right on all the issues, but it is in the final analysis reflective of the community from which it derives its support.

The black press is the only branch of the media in this society that is fully responsive to the concerns and wishes of the black community. It achieves/relays its triumphs and its tragedies with more sensitivity and concern than the white media. If the black press in a particular community is regressive or politically backward, it is because that particular black community is that way. They don't make the paper accountable to black interests, because that community as a collective is not working for black interests.

In these critical times a strong, fearless, advocate black press is sorely needed. Cold hard truth will set us free, not selective honesty which is no honesty at all. I wonder how many people realize that?

I was saddened by an official of a black cultural institution calling this paper one that he questioned was worth the price after this paper had faithfully supported his group for over thirty years. It was also sad that he felt that his group was above criticism, despite putting on public performances that allowed critics from white papers to say whatever they wanted afterwards.

I was also saddened by a banquet that I attended for a local civil rights organization that featured at the head table a representative of the white press whose paper was recently the object of a bitter and protracted boycott. The black press is always there for this civil rights group when issues come up, but when it comes time to give favored places at the banquet table, it is the recently reformed adversary, if reformed at all, who received one, not the black press which was and always is a supporter of civil rights.

If the black press becomes extinct, the black community will sorely miss its comrade in the struggle, the black press. The well will be dry and the water will be missed severely by a community in the middle of a racist desert.

SEED TO FRUIT

By Charles Dugger

Value not valuable

Let us stop imitating the affluence, the apathy, and the impersonalness of this dominant white culture. We are not how unhappy the people on "Dallas," "Dynasty," "Falcon-crest," and "Knot's Landing" are. Let us concentrate on ourselves and not on J. R. and Alexis.

Let us value our families, our friends, our culture, our heritage, our integrity, our perseverance, and our faith.

Let us care for ourselves. Let us care and share with each other. Let us stop trying to be black bourgeoisie — those of us who are trying to be. Instead, let us be the best human beings that we can be.

Let us value our goals, pledges, promises, commitments; resolutions, and obligations.

Let us take care of ourselves. Let us take care to do what is necessary and what is important. Let us be caretakers of one another.

Black men, we are caretakers of the Earth. Black women, you and the Earth that we must always love, respect, and care for.

Black women, you are the gardens of creation. Black men, we are the gardeners. Let us, brothers and sisters, truly understand, stand by, stand for, stand beside, stand out, stand over, stand near, stand tall with, stand around, and overstand each other.

We must be about values which are intangible and not about valuables which are tangible.

While an undergraduate student at Howard University, I did a paper on conspicuous consumption for my Social Science II class.

Them, as a seventeen year old college freshman, I found it very enlightening to learn that a patron, a buyer, and a customer were all consumers. I came to understand that conspicuous meant obvious, show, flashy, or evident.

Furthermore, I began to grasp that there are too many black people who are conspicuous consumers, obvious buyers, and flashy patrons.

Twenty years ago, I entered college, learned about conspicuous consumption and surface affluence, saw daily examples of conspicuous consumption, and became saddened.

I became saddened as I realized that some of us value valuables but do not value our own self - worth nor our collective worth.

Let us cease to be the black bourgeoisie of today or those of tomorrow. Let us be proud of whom we are as we value our existence.

It is truly great and beautiful to be alive. Let us value our hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits.

Please join us this Sunday, Oct. 14, 1984 from 3 until 7 p.m. at the St. James and St. John's Community Center as we come together to help Sister Khadeeja Fatou Mata.

Sister Khadeeja needs our help to save her home through our financial assistance. We are having a dinner of tuna-fish or salmon casserole, fresh salad, and dessert to raise money.