**Baltimore Afro American**

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# We endorse Mondale/Ferraro

The votes that will be cast on November 6, will be some of the most important in American history. There is a clear choice in the presidential contest between a candidate who represents over 25 years of public service to all Americans and an incumbent who has excelled rhetorically and failed to bring the country into the present.

Walter Mondale, while not a perfect candidate, is a man who has exhibited compassion, statesmanship, perseverance, and a willingness to face tough issues head on. His campaign has been beset by prophets of doom, party defections, and a news media mesmerized by what they perceive as Ronald Reagan's charm.

Mondale has talked about a wide range of issues. He comes from a party that is very reflective of this nation in its diversity and its creative conflict. He has emerged from a party that represents most Americans, therefore, he has had to address the concerns of most Americans in his campaign.

President Reagan was nominated by a party that is oriented toward the elites of society. It contains very little diversity, and extremists inside the party want to make it even more homogenous.

The incumbent's policies have benefitted the rich and injured the poor. Many Americans living on the edge of poverty were pushed over it by Reagan's policies. When questioned about these facts the president either distorts the truth or offers vague promises that have little detail or substance.

The president has started a game of bluff with the Soviet Union that has much of the world trembling at the prospect of nuclear war. He has raised military intervention to the top of his list of options for Central America and the Caribbean.

Reagan has received many plaudits for restoring hope and pride to the American people. He has done that for some of the people while he has induced hopelessness in many others. Reagan is the candidate spouting happy talk and helping the rich get richer regardless of the consequences to society. He is not the thoughtful leader this country needs for the future.

The AFRO endorses Parren J. Mitchell for election to Congress from the 7th District of Maryland. Although Parren Mitchell is running unopposed we are endorsing him as a show of appreciation for his efforts in behalf of his constituents.

We endorse the reelection of Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski from the 3rd district. Her record is exemplary in serving the needs of her constitutents and we feel that able service should be rewarded.

On Question P

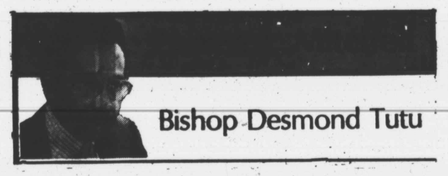
The AFRO has been deluged with letters and calls giving individual and group opinions on the issue of whether the schoolboard should be elected or appointed.

We urge all of our readers to think very deeply and carefully about your decision before you vote. There have been plausible arguments offered on each side and some bitter words have been passed between proponents of each system.

We believe emotions are running high because both sides perceive this vote as having far-reaching effects on the quality of life in this city for many years to come. It is not a question to be taken lightly.

The AFRO urges voters to vote yes on QUESTION P.

# AFRO endorses:



## Bishop Desmond Tutu

Throughout the violence, bloodshed, loss of life, and political unrest in South Africa, shines a glimmer of hope for peace and the liberation of Africa. Bishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu is the winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize.

Tutu is an eloquent opponent of the apartheid system of racial segregation. His approach to overcome the injustices of this oppressive system are similar to those demonstrated by Dr. Martin Luther King in the Civil Rights Movements of the 1960's.

He advocates non-violence in their struggle. Since 1978, Tutu has been the general-secretary of the South African Council of Churches, which unites all South African denominations except the two white-supremacist Dutch Reformed churches.

Tutu calls for the assistance of the international community to exert pressure so that South Africa will address the future of its 22 million black majority.

At the same time, he continues to condemn the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa's white minority government.

The Reagan Administration's policy of constructive engagement has not and will not work. Their policy involves the pursuing of normal relations with South Africa's white minority government while quietly encouraging reforms.

The Reagan Administration, seen by blacks there, is collaborating with the racist regime and is helping them to be more intransigent than ever.

Tutu and the masses in opposition feel that the South African Government should not be recognized at all. They hope that Reagan will lose the November election.

The Anglican bishop renewed his frequent warning to the government saying that it faces a bloodbath if it does not abandon apartheid. Namibia, four years later is still unfree.

A new constitution which is totally undemocratic has been put into effect in South Africa and nothing fundamentally has changed.

Under the new constitution passed by the government, South Africa's 22 million black majority has been officially excluded from political power. The ruling white minority make up only 6.5 million of the 29 million people in South Africa.

More than 80 people have been killed since September 3 in unrest triggered by rent hikes and demands for political reforms. The Nobel Peace Prize is a vindication for Tutu's and Black South Africa's struggle for justice and peace.

It is a tremendous boost for all at a time when the South African Government thought it could quietly get away with its bogus reforms. The world is watching South Africa; the world is with you Tutu.

Paraphrasing the black nationalist anthem: Nkosi Sikelele i Afrika (God Bless Africa)!

# Civil rights missing

The second debate between President Reagan and Walter Mondale was unique in that the atrocities in South Africa were not included on the agenda and were not mentioned in a serious or meaningful manner. Mondale made a brief reference to the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the valiant Bishop Desmond Tutu. But Reagan's hearing aid malfunctioned or he intentionally chose to avoid direct criticism of the Pretoria minority government or extend congratulations to a brave clergyman fighting the forces of evil with no more than God-given talents and no material resources.

Mondale pointed out that Bishop Tutu has criticized the Reagan administration's tacit encouragement of the white minority government in South Africa. The Democratic challenger added that "we need to stand for human rights and make it clear we're for human liberty." Rather than categorically denounce the racist regime Reagan replied that "our record on human rights cannot be assailed because we've had a keen interest in this area throughout the world.

"Evidently Bishop Tutu disagrees because he has called our policy of "constructive engagement an unmitigated disaster." The Anglican clergyman also noted that this policy has encouraged the Pretoria government to become more repressive toward black South Africans and act with unbridled fury gainst defenseless black people. Even before recent reports of quarantining black townships and arbitrary house searching there were no expressions of outrage or condemnation from our government. Black South Africans live under a constant reign of terror and are denied even the most basic God-given rights or civil liberties.

U.S. administration officials passionately express their views on oppression in other areas of the world without equivocation and often take other measures to make their displeasures known. But when it comes to blacks versus whites in South Africa that is another matter altogether.

Civil rights was also omitted from the first verbal joust between Reagan and Mondale. Even the Bush-Ferraro exchange failed to include civil rights in their discussion although a strident Bush bent over backward to adhere to the administration's in other areas without too much difficulty. The omission of civil rights in any discussion of national issues reveals how serious panelists take this explosive subject.

The Reagan-Mondale debates were tipped in Mondale's favor because even his harshest critics grudgingly concede that he had a better command of himself and expressed his views with distinct clarity, although more subdued in the second than in the previous appearance. He knew what he wanted to say and was deliberate without being pompous or braggadocio. Reagan, on the other hand, resorted to his usual "one-liners, repeated himself and even misspoke himself and had to apologize. In the opinion of many observers he went off on a tangent altogether in the closing statement of the second debate.

## Anthony Armstrong

## The Gem

There are certain select places in the world that are truly paradise. New Zealand is one such place, so is Sri Lanka, the country long known as Ceylon.

Tahiti, in the Society Islands, and Belize, though surrounded by terrible warfare, are two more places on the planet that bring to mind nirvana. In the crystal white snow of the Himalaya Mountains sits Bhutan and far less than half-a-world away is Thailand, the former Siam.

These places are, more than most other locations, examples of the physical beauty of this "space ship" we all inhabit. South Africa - of all of these, she most is heaven on Earth.

The crown among all global jewels is undoubtedly that land at the southern most tip of the continent of Africa. South Africa. The name speaks of ever so much more than just a direction. It points to a way of life. South Africa, the land mass is almost too beautiful, almost unbelievably abundant.

Look to Pretoria and Johannesburg and the eye literally sees the hills of gold dust left there by years of blood and blood, sweat and blood and, tears and blood. Look on the beaches and see diamonds dug out by strong glistening black men, for the benefit of DeBeers.

See every possible kind of gorgeous flower - flowers we'd call exotic; flowers the people there commonly see everyday. Watch Fish Eagles souring high above only to quietly and swiftly swoop down to spear there water bound prey.

Then go to Soweto and travel on from there to Lesotho, a joke made into a "country." See Zululand along the country's eastern seaboard and, then the northern region where the tiny people called Pigmy live. There is Swaziland another "country" within South Africa.

Here, in these beautiful places turned ugly, sense the pain and suffering that is the result of the sickness of fear of the Afrikaners, whose forefathers came to South Africa (the region) from Holland.

If, as it's said, beauty is only skin deep, under the beauty that is the land of South Africa is the hatred of a people crazed; but surely time will cure their ills. Yet they will hang on to the death; because the Afrikaners are among the most stubborn of all the world's people.

Continue your travels to Cape Town — the New York, Paris, Rome and, London all rolled into one of South Africa. Even the weather in South Africa is a thing of beauty.

From mild Mediterranean climate in the southern part of the country to dry deserts in the central and western regions, to humid lowlands in the east - no one in South Africa complains about the weather.

There are the most pleasant trade winds to curtain either side of the Cape of Good Hope and, rain fall enough for farmers but never too much for bathers.

When one can understand the beauty and perfection of this land then, and only then, can the outsider start to comprehend why the whites in South Africa and elsewhere (the U.S., Britain, Tel Aviv and, lots more) simply do not and will not give it up.

It seems so obvious and yet still so startling that South Africa will have to be taken with guns, blood and death. Again, the whites in South Africa will never, but never, give-up power and control.

Power and control will have to be taken, then taken again (for the clash will not end shortly) and, then held.

And lest we seem strident, let me admit that I can vicarously understand the feelings of the whites. Though I empathize I, and no other fair minded person anywhere in the world, can sympathize with the fear and hatred that frames the hellish ways of whites, in that beautiful land.

The whites must learn that if there be killing, and there shall be, the blood will be on their hands.

They must learn that to live in harmony with the rightful "kings" of the land, they must first know that they cannot occupy the throne. They, the whites, must be made to understand that no amount of flickering with processes or papers will save them from themselves.

Yet, the beauty is there in great and varied displays. The people of the region can do nothing to change that fact. South Africa, however, must change under its skin and then its beauty will finally know its purpose.

# Black votes make difference

The black vote is a crucial factor in this year's presidential election because it can make the difference in many states where there was a close margin in the last quadrennial exercise. It will mean the difference between hope and despair for the future or a rollback in social and economic programs and "lip service" that sounds good but produces negative results. Our vote will mean that the "far right" or demagogic fundamentalists will be defanged and denied their privilege of flaunting their ante-bellum, influence in the highest levels of our government.

Our segment of the voting population could also mean the turning out of mediocre and inept administrators who use the government for their own benefit or that of their friends to obtain lucrative contracts or high paying jobs and invoke anti-minority policies. It should also be recalled that the number of malfeasance incidents by high level executives has been excessive more so than under previous administrations other than the abysmal Nixon disaster. Under the current administration school and other social programs have either been gutted or cut to the bone so that black people and other minorities have been pushed to the wall, so to speak.

Currently unemployment has victimized Blacks the hardest, being attributed to purported transition to high technology. Deficits are higher than ever, which of course, grossly affects those at the lowest end of the economic ladder. Yet these serious problems are usually brushed aside with a cavalier gesture as if they are temporary aberrations that will wither away with time. Administration officials often point to the few token jobs allotted to black workers. In turn these same lackeys try to convince left-out black people of the salutary record of Ronald Reagan, especially in civil rights.

If the black vote turns out in significant numbers it can also influence a decision for the appointments of Supreme Court Justices. During the next four years at least four judges will retire and their replacement will extend far into the next century which of course means that Reagan's conservative views will also reflect that of his reactionary religious clique. Our lone black jurist, Thurgood Marshall, who is not in the best of physical health, will certainly have retired from active duty.

Our vote can also be crucial in foreign policy. We can let our leaders know that we object to tacit support for the racist government in South Africa. That minority government recently sent "storm troopers" in black townships and waged a repressive reign of terror against unarmed black South Africans. This savage treatment so far has failed to elicit any expression of "shock or outrage" from the Reagan administration. In fact our government was the "lone" delegation that voted against the United Nations resolution to condemn South Africa. Excessive language was the tepid excuse, which of course every enlightened individual considers a "copout."

The black vote can also influence congressional races. Recently the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights released a report on the voting record of this congress which it called "moderately good." If we vote in large numbers our representatives will know our attitude and respect our concerns because it will affect their political life and in the process more black lawmakers will be elected. And in due time because of seniority rights many of these black legislators will become chairpersons of crucial committees and be able to wield authority in our behalf.

# Apartheid

Foreign policy statements by top administration officials, such as Secretary Shultz, have been interesting to say the least. From the beginning of this administration, it has followed a policy of so - called "constructive engagement" with the racist regime in the Union of South Africa.

But at no time have Secretary Shultz, Ambassador Kirkpatrick, the president or anyone in the administration issued a statement condemning the actions of the South African government against the black people and who are daily subjected to the most barbaric treatment ever put upon a group of people since the slave trade flourished in America.

The treatment even surpasses the harshness perpetrated upon the Jews in war-time Germany. The debates have come and gone, with not a mention of an attempt by this administration, or even the pro Democrats to use pressure, economic or otherwise, to change the system in South Africa.

BERNARD TUTSON

## Samuel L. Banks

# Dare to be yourself vote for progress

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1984, YOU will, as a registered voter, be able to exercise one of the most priceless and cherished rights of a free society — the RIGHT OF THE FRANCHISE (i.e., ballot).

The Mondale - Ferraro presidential ticket based on equity, simple justice, commitment to full employment and human and civil rights justifies support from fair, progressive and forward - looking citizens. The Mondale - Ferraro ticket should command YOUR full support and vote on election day. YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. PLEASE DON'T GO FISHING.

Locally, it stands to reason that Congressman Parren J. Mitchell and Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski deserve an overwhelming endorsement in their quest for re - election.

YOU can send a resounding and clear message to reactionaries and proponents of an insipid and deadening status quo by the range of your vote for Congressman Mitchell and Congresswoman Mikulski. Each of them deserves YOUR full and enthusiastic support.

The proposed Charter Amendments P and Q, in my opinion, represent pregnant ideas whose time have come. Each of the proposed amendments represents, in appealing to direct participatory involvement, the essence of a democratic society.

However, the thought of enlarging the electorate through an elected school board (P) and eighteen (18) councilmanic districts (Q) has caused enormous traumatization and disquiet among the present holders and controllers of power. In terms of broader and deeper involvement of the citizency in public affairs and decision, Questions P and Q SHOULD GO FORWARD.

A vote for Questions P and Q should not flow from anger, meanspiritedness or spite, but from a keen interest in sharing power and having more direct participation in the educational and political decisions that affect YOU, YOUR children, relatives, friends and neighbors and YOUR community. If YOU believe YOU have the intelligence, common sense and desire to make YOUR own decisions as to what is in the best interest of YOU, YOUR loved ones and community, I believe that YOU will support Questions P and Q as a matter of equity, fairness and larger opportunities.

Then, too, when you elect persons to office, YOU are able to ensure ACCOUNTABILITY. At any point that elected officials are not responsive to the needs of your community, YOU are able to make known your interest where it is most effective — the ballot box. Moreover, those who are ineffectual and unproductive in addressing constituent needs can through YOU, in concert with others, voted from office.

Whatever happens to Question P and Q will depend, as it should, on YOU. If YOU, in fact, believe that YOU, YOUR loved ones and community are served favorably by the present system, then, YOU will vote against Questions P and Q. However, if you believe that the time has come for a progressive and equitable change, then, YOU will Support Questions P and Q.

The position taken by the Baltimore Branch, NAACP, Citizens United for An Elected School Board, the Coalition Against Racism in Baltimore, Baltimore City Teachers Association, among others, represents a straight forward, progressive, fair and just direction.

Questions P and Q, in reality, constitute a long - overdue struggle for equal participation and sharing of power in the body politic. It is reminiscent of a memorable statement made by Dr. William Edward Burghardt DuBois over 67 years ago:

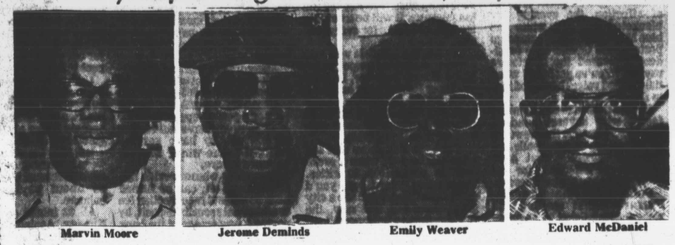
"Against this the Niagara Movement eternally protests. We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a free born American, political, civil, and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone, but for all true Americans.

On Tuesday, in the privacy of the voting booth, YOU will have an opportunity to exercise YOUR right as a "free born American." Logic, rationality, a respect for and support of increased and expanded citizen involvement and participation. YOU CAN MAKE A MIGHTY DIFFERENCE IF YOU WILL DARE TO BELIEVE AND ACT FOR YOURSELF. I DARE YOU.

The point cannot be made that in terms of current socio - economic data that a clear majority of Black Baltimoreans or the poor have benefited in a significant way with the present educational economic and political system. Data available from the National Center for Educational Statistics depict Baltimore as leading the nation in regard to school absenteeism, a disproportionate number of school dropouts and other socio - economic data obtained from the Bureau of the Census report of 1980 and updated reports and the Bureau of Labor Statistics show Baltimore as leading the nation insofar as youth unemployment is concerned, substandard housing stock and a generally low "misery index" for Black and impoverished White inhabitants.

# AFRO SURVEY

## Are you planning to vote? If not, why not?



Marvin Moore — Jerome Deminds — Emily Weaver — Edward McDaniel

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Will you vote in this year's election? Why? Or, why not?"

Marvin Moore, 36, minister, "Most definitely I will vote. This is a crucial election, especially for blacks. Because of the economical situation in the country right now, we have to vote. We are in trouble, and those who do not think it is true are fooling themselves. We just cannot as a race of people tolerate four more years of Reagan."

Jerome Deminds, 41, student, "Yes, I am going to vote. I do not like Reagan that much, but he is the lesser of two evils. I am going to vote Republican. I like what is being done for the country by Reagan right now, and it is important to keep him in office."

Emily Weaver, 32, file clerk, "I definitely will vote. I work for the federal government, and I am tired of Reagan being there. I want to vote for Mondale. There probably will not be the person I want in there, but at least I can try to get out the person I really do not want in there."

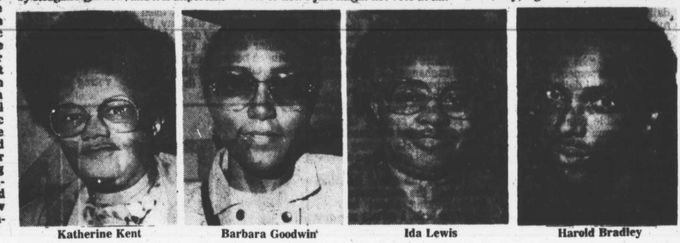
Edward McDaniel, 40, mail clerk, "I am going to vote in this election because you just can't help but get tired of Ronald Reagan and his policies. Any change is better than no change, especially when Reagan is one of the choices."

Katherine Kent, 53, mail clerk, "My mind is not made up yet whether I will vote or not. I just might not vote at all. My money has been messed up so bad that neither of the candidates deserve my vote."

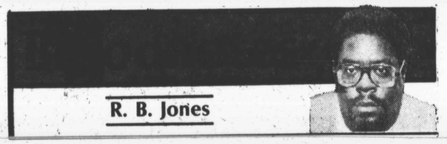
Barbara Goodwin, 23, clerk typist, "Of course I will vote. I want a president of this country who is more sensitive to the needs of common people, one who will push for more job openings and who will really try to help people."

Ida Lewis, 63, housewife, "I vote every year because I want the right man to get in, and I know every vote counts."

Harold Bradley, 26, sanitation worker, "I do not know if I will vote or not. I think it is important, but honestly I am not excited about the election. My vote might or might not count. I just feel that Whomever they want in is going to get in anyway, regardless of who I vote for."



Katherine Kent — Barbara Goodwin — Ida Lewis — Harold Bradley



R. B. Jones

# Ambiguity

I found out this past week that many more people than I realized read the AFRO. Many members of the Muslim community called in to take exception to some comments I made about the leader of the American Muslim mission, Imam Warith Deen Muhammade.

I condemned what I perceived as his endorsement of Ronald Reagan. Along with a number of angry and sometimes threatening calls, I received a copy of a statement released through the American Muslim Mission's newspaper.

The statement which appeared in the October 19 edition of the American Muslim Journal is as follows, "I am more satisfied than dissatisfied with President Ronald Reagan's administration."

The statement also says, "Although Imam Muhammad has spoken publicly on how he admires President Reagan for being a man of strong principle, he has not endorsed anyone."

I am apologizing to Imam Muhammad for stating that he explicitly endorsed Ronald Reagan. He has released a statement clarifying his position which contradicts earlier press reports stating that he had endorsed Ronald Reagan. Since many black leaders have had problems with the media in recent months with quotations, I will give him the benefit of the doubt.

I have very ambiguous feelings about the statement however. How the Imam can find more to be satisfied with than dissatisfied with in the Reagan regime is amazing. What he could find to admire about Ronald Reagan is a mystery to me.

The only principles that Ronald Reagan seems to have are a belief in the transfer of wealth from the poor and the middle class economic groups to the rich and a desire to promote a foreign and domestic policy that will revive life as it was when minorities and women stayed in their places and America was free to act as an international bully boy.

However, this is a "democratic society" and people can admire whomever they wish to. This supposed democracy also advocates freedom of the press and many of the callers who have contacted me in the last week do not share that belief.

Many of the callers represented themselves as followers of Imam Muhammad and questioned whether I had any right to criticize him. I was told that I was promoting disunity in the African - American community. Others said that I was an enemy of Islam. Others called saying that I would be dealt with physically. I was even told that I have been brainwashed by the white man. Of course, the person who made the latter statement is not a regular reader.

What the members of the Muslim community must begin to realize is that when one becomes involved in the American political process one is subject to close scrutiny and frequent criticism. If one is too sensitive or beyond the realm of criticism then one should stay away from partisan politics.

The American Muslim Mission held a political convention in Washington, D.C. this past summer and the local Imam, Ronald Shakir entered the realm of partisan politics recently. The most famous member of the group, Muhammad Ali, endorsed Ronald Reagan and said, if the press reports are accurate in this instance, that he endorsed Reagan because Imam Muhammad told him to. Partisan political activity breeds criticism.

As for my promoting disunity in the African - American community, unity is a dual entity. There is ideal unity and there is practical unity. In an abstract sense, black people should be unified because we share a common oppression, racism, that is based on our genetic characteristics.

Our levels of unity fluctuate because in a practical sense some of us are less oppressed than others. We have many groups with differing agendas. The only way we can achieve unity is through honesty and ideological struggle. People with contradictory ideas and goals can not unify. I was merely raising political questions that need to be answered.

As for my being an enemy of Islam, I can only refer to my record. I have worked with members of the Islamic community on various projects, I, with no suggestion from my editor or any official at the Baltimore Masjid, did a full page article about the Wilson St. Masjid and interviewed Imam Shakir. I received no calls or letters about that article and no thanks. Fairness would dictate that I get praise as well as criticism.

I was told by an official at the Masjid that some members wanted to confront me physically about my criticism of Imam Muhammad. I would only hope that we in the black community have progressed beyond the point where we would deal with each other in such a manner. I witnessed how such behavior undermined our movements in the sixties and our enemies were the ones that benefitted.

The American Muslim Mission has its own paper and claims to have a million followers or members. If my criticisms, the thoughts of one man are enough to inspire thoughts of violence then the movement would appear to be on shakey ground. An old African proverb says that he who strikes the first blow has already lost the argument. I must state that not all the calls have been derogatory. A couple of calm people called and we had a constructive dialogue.

I wish the American Muslim Mission well. I hope it continues to make a contribution to our community. However, my primary commitment is to the black community in general and when the Imam Muhammad or anyone else does something that I perceive as harmful to my people I will speak out. History will decide whether I was correct or not.

# SEED TO FRUIT

By Charles Dugger

## Vote and be devoted

Brother Malcolm X said, "By any means necessary."

Brothers and sisters, let us not limit ourselves as a people. There are infinite possibilities for us if we diligently pursue and then are always about love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice.

It is said that there are three hundred and sixty degrees of possibilities. Brothers and sisters, we don't have to live this way. We can, we must, and we will make a better world!

Let us vote and still be totally devoted to the true liberation and positive growth and development of our people.

Some of us have very negative feelings about voting. Our voting does not mean that we have compromised with evil and diabolical people. We must never give in to evil but must always fight evil.

Our voting does not mean that we have sold our souls, hearts, and minds to corruption and disruption. We must never be for sale.

There are too many of us who are saying that they are not going to vote this Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1984 because neither presidential candidate truly cares about black people.

Do we, black people, truly care about ourselves?

If we do care, let us do more. Some of us who say that we are not going to vote also don't take time to love and direct our children.

Some of us who say that we are not going to vote also don't try to become more self - sufficient and productive.

Some of us who don't intend to vote are also too lazy to sweep the streets and pavements in our own neighborhoods.

Do we truly care about ourselves? There are some of us who, instead of caring about us, would rather scare us — kill us, rob us, rape us, discredit us, humiliate us, or disrespect us.

These people must be stopped and are not to be tolerated among us. There are some of us who, instead of caring about us, would rather make unity, love, pride, honor, and integrity scarce among us. Again, these negative people must be stopped and not tolerated.

Do we truly care about ourselves? I have met too many of us who complain, belittle, and criticize those of us who are trying to do something.

Why don't those of us who criticize the political process in this country, seriously create and implement a positive alternative for black people?

Why didn't those of us who criticized Rev. Jesse Jackson's Democratic presidential candidacy, run for president or, at least, motivate our people such as Rev. Jackson has done?

Why don't those of us who criticize Rev. Jackson for his "Saturday Night Live" performance, try harder ourselves to "deliver the word" — Communication is essential for the survival of black people! Why didn't those of us who criticized mayoral candidate William Murphy Jr. run for mayor?

Let us be truly devoted to the betterment of our people as have been Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, countless other human beings, the NAACP and many other organizations.

Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner were murdered in 1964 in Mississippi where they were trying to register black people.

Medgar Evers, an NAACP leader, was murdered in 1963 in Mississippi because of his tireless efforts to register prospective black voters.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, has never stopped trying to raise our people's consciousness while seeking to eliminate racism, injustice, and discrimination.

Through its Crisis magazine, it has documented that we have been beaten, jailed, tortured, and - or lynched as we have fought for the right to vote.

Fannie Lou Hamer was nearly beaten to death for her incredible efforts to register black voters, to raise our people's consciousness and to eliminate injustice.

Fannie Lou Hamer said, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired!"

Aren't we sick and tired of being sick and tired? Aren't we sick and tired of the lack of love, guidance and respect coming from some of our homes? Aren't we sick and tired of racism, police brutality, and miseducation?

Aren't we sick and tired of the senseless deaths of too many of our people? Aren't we sick and tired of seeing so many unloved, misguided, and confused youth? Aren't we sick and tired of the lack of commitment of too many of our people?

We can, we must, and we will make a better world!

The white power structure clearly understands the "power of the people" and that "in unity there is strength." The sophisticated brainwashing and indoctrination by this country's media through its "polls" and its stereotypical and prejudicial reporting have done a lot to create confusion, apathy, and despair.

Let us always be people of fusion, empathy, and hope.

NOV