Baltimore Afro-American

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The Provident problem

Something must be done about the stalemate between the Board of Trustees at Provident Hospital and the hospital's medical staff. For weeks, the two sides have been at odds over administrative policies at the hospital and this is a most inopportune time for such internal conflict.

Last year, the hospital suffered an operating deficit and state policies to control health care costs this year will preclude any large increases in service charges to recoup the losses.

On December 1, the contract between Provident and unionized workers will expire, and a new contract will have to be negotiated in the face of a budget deficit that might force some layoffs.

When the current conflict between the board and the doctors is added to the above problems, it is evident that the component parts must pull together if the current crisis is to be overcome.

Neither side has been willing to budge and the doctors have decided to refrain from admitting nonemergency patients until their demands for changes in the administrative structure are met. This is a severe blow to a hospital already in financial difficulty.

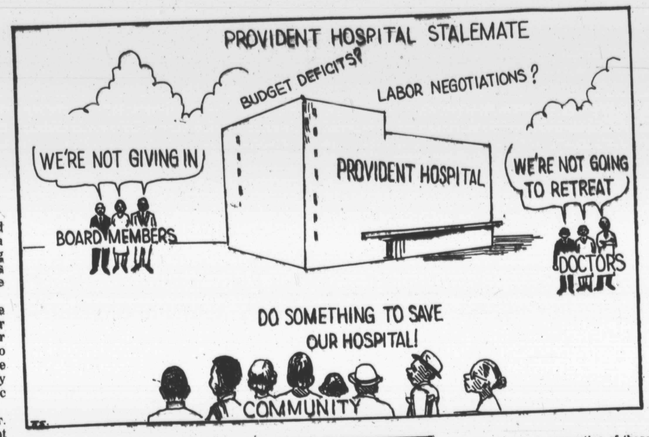
Not only have the two sides not compromised, but they have failed to inform the larger community about the issues that have inspired such intransigence. Provident is a community resource and life-giving and life-sustaining institution. It is not the private kingdom of the combatants.

The doctors have informed the community to a degree about their concerns. They have made it clear that their primary objective is to remove Dr. Oakley Saunders, vice president for medical affairs. They have not been however too specific publicly in their charges.

The administrators, including Dr. Saunders and hospital president Jessamy, have refused to talk to the AFRO about the escalating conflict, and the board members have been reticent about accepting our offer to clarify the nature of the conflict and quiet the fears of community members who worry about the survival of the hospital.

This week, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell stepped forward and offered to act as mediator in the conflict. Whether that is the best solution or not is a matter of speculation at this point, but it is an option that must be considered. The stalemate must be broken before the two sides harden their positions even more.

The survival of Provident Hospital is too vital to this community for it to be endangered. The stalemate must end.



Letters

Routine service, routine pay

As reported in the AFRO on November 17th Dr. William Mack Garner, found guilty of Medicaid fraud, stated that what he did was perfectly normal in regular medical practice but not under Medicaid.

Dr. Garner was charging patients coming to his office for routine medication refills the cost of a regular office visit: even if no medical examination took place!

What greed!

Doctors are among the highest income compensated people in the country and to be able by professional standards to take advantage of the poor and of any program to help them is absolutely reprehensible.

Why could not doctors charge a modest fee for such a routine service?

GEORGE B. LAURENT

Angry over Morgan concert

We would like to express our grievances as to the mismanagement of the November 2nd concert held at Morgan State University.

We were very disappointed spectators of the 8 pm show first: because it started at 10 pm and second, because the advertised billing was for three groups while only two performed.

The lack of information given to ticket holders concerning the delay was inexcusable and the amount of time spent waiting for the show to begin does not warrant twelve dollars and fifty cents per person.

When an establishment such as a well known radio station in Baltimore, publicizes the concert and has a member of its staff acting as Master of ceremony for the event, they should take it upon themselves to inform ticket holders of any changes in the program.

The fact that this was not done shows both unprofessionalism and outright rudeness.

In the future we think you should give your public more consideration and understand that people want what they pay for.

STEPHANIE A. FUSSELL
JACQUELINE MOORING
KEVIN L. CAMPHOR

Disagree with congressman

I was glad to see in the AFRO of November 13, 1984, the letter from Congressman Augustus Hawkins and the column by John Jacob, emphasizing the unemployment problem and the inability and unlikelyhood of private enterprise solving the problem.

However, I must take issue slightly with two points in the Hawkins letter. I personally disagree with his belief that it would be preferable if the private market-place could provide enough jobs. I think it is so unlikely to be able to happen, that it is impractical to even believe in it.

Secondly, while respecting the congressman's need to be tactful so as to get cooperation amongst his fellow congressmen. I feel something much stronger needs to be said about why Reagan vetoed the American Conservation Corps Act.

It was not just "....unfortunate but not surpising...." or "....bias towards social programs...." or "....bias so intense....it clouds his judgement...."

Actually it is more of the conservative belief that there should be a "slave" class, a group of uneducated, untrained people who will do the lowest kind of labor for the lowest wages, taking any kind of job available; that if everybody is educated and trained, who will scrub the floors, sweep the streets, "shine my shoes", i.e., do the "dirty work"

On another point of recent significance. The "crossover" urging and voting of such persons as Hayabert and Bilal should not be at all surprising. After all, they are big businessmen. And it is well known that big business and its persons are conservative, Republican, Reaganites.

Big business blacks do not in any way represent the mainstream blacks. Whether they planned it that way or not, or whether they like and admit it or not, power are now more like the big white businessman.

HARRY E. BENNETT, JR.

Council bill action wanted

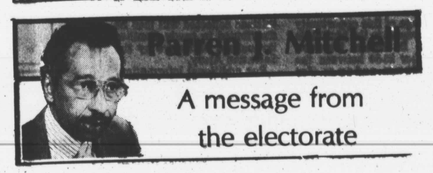
There is still a group of people in Baltimore city who face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.

The Baltimore city council could very well eradicate this kind of discrimination by passing City Council Bill No. 178. Council bill 178 is now being held-up in the council planning and policy Committee.

The chairman of that committee says he is unable to get the ten votes needed to pass the bill, so he will not take it out of committee.

There are two black councilperons who have not given support to the bill, one in the 4th District and one in the Second. I call on the city council to pass Bill 178.

IRVIN J. CONWAY
Civic Interest Group



A message from the electorate

Now that the elections are over, what message did we as black Americans receive from the electorate? Much has been written and said about the losses we will suffer due to the re-election of President Reagan.

What stands out most clearly in my mind from the election results is the recognition that there has been a shift in the attitude of the nation. Far too many Americans spurn the days of caring for the poor and disadvantaged.

The new America, as portrayed in those feel-good Reagan campaign commercials this fall, is deeply divided along class lines. We as black Americans must realize what the electorate is telling us before we become victims of our own ignorance.

A CBS-New York Times poll asked registered voters what concerned them most: families not receiving enough welfare to get by, or families receiving more welfare than they need.

Respondents by 2-to-1 said they were more concerned about families receiving more welfare than they need. Those who were more concerned about excess welfare payments favored Reagan over Mondale by 3-to-1.

In a separate CBS-NYT poll voters were asked whether the government should do more to help blacks or whether the government had done enough or too much. 62 percent of white voters said the government had done enough or too much for blacks.

When asked whether there was more waste in the Defense budget or in the welfare budget, voters were evenly divided. Because the Defense budget is five times as large as the welfare budget, this should tell us something about the mood of the country.

Not surprisingly, the group that believed there was more waste in the welfare budget preferred Reagan 70-to-20.

In an ABC News exit poll, Americans earning more than $30,000 a year favored Reagan by more than 2-to-1. Those earning less than $10,000— some 40 million — favored Mondale.

Now that America has told black people it is no longer sympathetic to single low-income mothers with small children, as it once was, nor is it willing to support any notion that remedies should be aggressively sought to correct the inequities in income distribution, poverty status, and unemployment levels that divide blacks from whites, we must assess our position and develop our own agenda.

This agenda must be sympathetic to those in need, supportive of those striving for economic prosperity and, equitable to all.

While we develop this agenda, we must be unrelenting in our struggle to make government responsive to human needs again; to make government reorder its priorities; and to re-educate this electorate on the role of government.

Vast economic changes make prior "winners" into "losers". Are we to ignore the needs of the new "losers"? Does anyone really believe that racism does not have a negative impact on employment, education, health and housing needs for minorities.

Of course not! My beliefs remain unchanged.

It is the duty and responsibility of government to meet the needs of its people, when those needs cannot be met through usual economic activities.

When asked what he admired most about black people, pop music singer and songwriter Stevie Wonder recently said, "Our perseverance: Our ability to do incredibly well under adverse circumstances. Even though there is sometimes a great deal of disagreement . . . we are a sensitive people, a people with a heart."

I agree with this assessment, and believe that we must continue to persevere.

We must teach many more of our children that education is important and that the responsibilities that come with parenthood are great. We must re-establish the extended family concept.

We should do these things and many more as a part of self-help, but, at the same time, we must not let the federal government abandon the fundamental position of compassion and caring for the disadvantaged in our midst.

Anthony Armstrong: Madness and movie stars

"From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our country's battles in the air, on land and, sea."

Tripoli: the capitol of Libya. Libya: an Arab nation on the northern coast of Africa. Land area: approximately two and a half times the size of the state of Texas; about sixty-five times the size of our own state of Maryland.

Libya: site of major battles during World War II, oil rich state and, former home of the infamous Barbary pirates. Libya: national flag of a single color, green; the color for peace and for things that grow.

Libya: home of world's most notorious international outlaw, Muammar Qaddafi; boom, boom, boom!

If he weren't Machiavellian he could be the leader of the entire Arab world, if not a national "father" he could be a movie star, if he weren't smart and dangerous he'd be dead by now.

Henry Kissenger has called Colonel Qaddafi one of the world's major players. The United States government has called him a maniac and a killer.

But who are we to call anyone mad, particularly anyone in North Africa? This article is not about madmen or about our government's opinion of, in this case, the Libyan leader.

Th's article is about starving people; people not just in Ethiopia but people in Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Upper Volta and scores of other countries.

These people are starving to death today and, they have been starving to death in great numbers now for more than four years. The great and seemingly endless drought in the Sahel region of northern Africa has brought a whole area of the world to the brink of genocide.

And what do we do? We, as a government, sit around and develop fancy rationalizations for why we can't feed most of these people.

On the one hand, I read that this year's grain crop, in the United States, will be seventy-eight percent larger than it was last year and; last year's grain crop set a record.

On the other hand, I watch my television set and, I see an American government official "B.S." his way through an interview, where he suggest that we can't feed these people because of administrative problems.

Administrative problems: can you believe that?

Of course you can believe it; it's par for the course when it comes to U.S. policy regarding any place in Africa except South Africa.

I bet you my last dollar, if it were whites in South Africa who were starving; the United States would be as effective in supplying them with food as we were in supplying the Germans during the Berlin airlift.

These type of human tragedies always present horrid logistics problems. However, in all such past cases (former President Herbert Hoover's relief work during World War I, is another such case) where there has been the will, men have always found a way.

I understand also that no government can go about just giving away much of anything (though we give away billions of dollars a year to countries like South Korea and Israel), because of the economic dislocations such give-aways can cause.

Yet, I can't for the life of me (forget my life — for the life of those starving in North Africa) understand why we, as a government of sane people, can't simply say to the government of Ethiopia, "here, take all the food you want — just leave me some."

If the government of Ethiopia won't do that, why don't we then sit down with the Russians and say, "Ethiopia is your client state, you work out the details with them — we just want to help some people, now starving, to stay alive."

If the Russians don't want to help, let the United Nations act as a go-between. If there are logistics problems, and I'm sure there are, then ask IBM to put one of those amazing computers to work solving those logistics problems.

In short, there is no reason in God's world why people so helpless should not be helped by us, with something we have so much of — food.

Madman, madman in lion skins and a military hat. Madman in a tan suit and bullet proof car. Who's a madman? I know this, if we allow all those helpless people to continue to starve to death, do to no cause of their own; somebody ought to have ear heads examined.

Mr. Qadaffi you can't go on causing so much confusion in the world. Mr. Reagan you are causing more confusion than any Libyan leader ever possibly could.

Now, who's the madman, who's the movie star?

AFRO welcomes letters

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

G. James Fleming: Morgan and Richardson

"Fair Morgan"—Morgan State University—has done well by and for itself in the election of Dr. Earl S. Richardson as its next president.

One could go further and say that the Board of Regents has made an excellent choice, judged by Richardson's record of training, his work experience, and his temperament.

The Morgan-Richardson combination is a team of promise for the entire Morgan family.

"His is a good mix of management skills and understanding, sensitivity and respect for "the academy." He has been student, teacher and educational administrator.

He has roots in the Maryland educational system and also the impress of the Ivy League by way of the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition—and a decided advantage—he has had unqualifiedly good apprenticeship—good internship and residency, to borrow medical terms.

Most college presidents rise from classroom or, in earlier days, from the pulpit, direct to presidencies. At best, they have been chairpersons of departments.

Few have previously had the opportunity and privilege of working under and beside another president.

Few have, thus, had the experience of being a part of the overall direction, planning and development which go with a college or university presidency. Few have had the opportunity to learn the tricks of the trade.

Earl Stanford Richardson fortunately brings this experience to Morgan—experience both at a small, predominantly black institution (the University of Maryland Eastern Shore) and at a multi-campus university system (the University of Maryland).

The executives of both attest to his high qualities in all areas.

In his years of "apprenticeship" he must have learned how to avoid some of the mistakes of presidencies; he must have learned how to travel through the labyrinths of legislative committees and executive bureaus;

He must have learned something about campus politics; he must have found out that a college presidency is no rose garden but, rather, is sometimes a field of stinging nettles. But, alas! He must also have learned that a college presidency is an opportunity to share in the process of creation, to nurture the young into a fulfillment of adulthood, to make the withering to bloom and, sometimes, to make the impossible possible.

The most persistent objection to the election of Dr. Richardson, the first Marylander to be president of Morgan, is that, as a former employee of the University of Maryland, he is a Prince Charming placed to woo and wean Morgan away from its independent status to become a satellite of the University of Maryland.

Those with this view are not giving Dr. Richardson any credit for having enough ego to want to run his own ship, to be president in his own full right.

Those critics also would blame him for having taken promotion in the University of Maryland system, long before there was a presidential vacancy at Morgan.

In a way, these objectors are also saying that they would prefer any other person, except one connected with the University of Maryland—one perhaps who would have to spend a year or more to "learn the ropes"; would have had to learn his way around.

As was to be expected, Morgan State University attracted applications from a number of topnotch people; about 70 it has been reported, and some from its own faculty.

One of these applicants was chosen, according to the law of the state by the Morgan Board of Regents.

Now is the time for everyone—students, faculty, staff and alumni—to close ranks, to support, to cooperate; above all for teachers to teach, in rededication to the proposition that the combination of students-before-a-teacher is their highest calling and their highest opportunity.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Fleming, a regular columnist of the AFRO, for 39 years was a professor of political science at Morgan State and, later, served for five years as a member of the Board of Regents.

Prince is not a prince

By Charles Dugger

Our children are our future.

Black women are mothers of civilization and queens of the universe and positive role models.

Black men are fathers of civilization, kings of the universe, tillers of the soil, warriors for justice, providers for their families, and positive role models.

Our children, who are our future, are future, are the princes and princesses of today, and the kings and queens of tomorrow. These are not idle words. This is the truth.

We are children of Our Creator. We are great creations.

We are kings, queens, princes, and princesses who must not misunderstand our reign. We reign over ourselves and properly, positively purposeful and never about "purple rain."

Rain is beautiful and necessary for our human existence. Some of our people, particularly in and around Ethiopia, are starving. Our people there need rain but not purple rain.

Mentally, too many of our young people are becoming pre-occupied with the 1984 style of blues — purple rain. Be it labeled punk rock, psychedelic, or hard rock, "Purple Rain" is still "the Blues."

Our people are too much into "the blues" and not into our red, black, gold and green.

Black people and black institutions must be elevated. Black people, we are institutions within ourselves. Let us institute and radiate more good things from our body temples.

Black people and black institutions, for the second time must not be denigrated and desecrated by performers, such as Prince and Michael Jackson.

Our people must project, aspire, climb, move, fuse, and surge forward to a higher plane and to peace of mind.

At present, this is not as was stated in Voltaire's Candide, "The best of all possible worlds." Brothers and sisters let us be the best human beings that we can be. Let us make a better world.

Chronologically and physically grown up men of twenty-five years, such as Prince and Michael Jackson should not be tolerated when they act in a negative and disrespectful manner.

If a man (or woman) chooses to be disrespectful to himself (or herself), it should be a personal matter not an act of public exhibition.

As Malcolm X said, "You can't get a chicken from a duck's egg." Michael Jackson and Prince cannot be who they are not.

If these men are not happy being their true natural selves, they must try harder, try harder for self-fulfillment. We are constantly growing until we die.

These men must not be allowed to confuse our young people while they remain confused themselves.

Prince's first name may be Prince, but he is not a prince. Unless he sincerely wants to be a prince of darkness, evil, and perversion, why does he act the way that he does?

If it is because of his love of money or fame or just plain ego-tripping, then his quest for valuables has taken precedence over his human need for values.

All human beings need values. Valuables are secondary while values are primary to our existence. It seems that Prince and Michael Jackson cannot comfortably and peacefully perceive themselves as men nor us as sensitive, impressionable human beings.

How do Michael Jackson and Prince feel about black on black crime or the miseducation of the Negro, 1984 or President Reagan's re-election or people starving or positive, role models?

How do these men feel about themselves? Why are they seemingly dual personalities?

Why are they being tolerated as they, and others like them, poison the minds and spirits of our youth?

Life is about loving, living, giving, receiving, eating, resting, thinking, and being.

Life is all about being.

We are human beings.!

Consequently and determinedly, let us be the best human beings that we can be.

Let us make our children proud of who they are. We don't need any Michael Jackson or Prince "look-a-likes" or "act-a-likes." We must always encourage our young people to always be their positive and righteous selves.

Why doesn't Michael Jackson or Prince discourage our children from trying to be imitations of them? These men are not at peace with themselves. As grown men, they should acknowledge that "peace of mind" is always more important than a "piece of the rock."

Why are we being so gullible and passive as we yearn for a piece of the rock when what we truly need are pieces of soil?— Land! Let us acquire land and bypass the rock.

Moreover, let us not allow our children to be poisoned, confused, burned out, psyched out, "radicated" out, "awesomed" out, played out, phased out, scratched out, blotted out, wiped out, blown out, or called out by this punk rock.

A punk is said to be a piece of rotten wood. Does punk rock conveniently legitimize homosexuality under the pretext of creativity. Who created punk rock? Why?

Whatever happened to rock as in - "I am going to rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham?"

Prince is not a prince. Why does a grown man want to sing that he wants to be a lover, brother, mother, sister, and father, too? Why does he sing that he want to "make someone come" when he has gone too far?

Why is a grown man, like Prince, encourage young women to sing that they are "nasty girls"?

Prince is not a prince. A grown man, for no reason, ever wears women's bikini underwear. A grown man is respectful and does not reveal any of his lower underwear. Underwear is just what it says it is.

—AFRO SURVEY—

Will your holiday be better this year?

Anthony Hamilton

William Wells

Dana Cobbs

Hattie Clark

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Will you be better off this Christmas than you were last Christmas?"

Anthony Hamilton, 20, student, "About the same. Whatever happens will happen. I think I will be a little better off financially. Most of all, however, I will be able to spend it with someone."

William Wells, 61, unemployed, "I'll be about the same. In fact, I am sure I will be the same. I am disabled and on a fixed income and for six years it has not increased, and I am sure this Christmas, it will be the same. Even my health is the same."

Dana Cobb, 18, resident counselor, "Most definitely this Christmas will be better. I work now and can get what I want. There is just more money."

Hattie Clark, 31, executive assistant, "Yes, I got a raise, I've bought a house and I have done just so many things. I think this Christmas will be just fine."

Cerliss Rogers, 28, director, "No, I am not better off this year because Reagan is still in office. This implies that there will be no increases in salaries. I am glad to at least have a job, but on the other hand, things are just too high to buy."

Gay Miller, 24, secretary, "Financially, I will not be doing well, but physically and spiritually everything will be all right. I will be happy regardless. I am thankful for just having another Christmas."

Gary Kelsey, 28, assistant dean, "Yes, in terms of having my finances under control. On the other hand, if you're making reference to the people in the White House, no. Reagan affects everyone."

Jenny Dorsey, 49, domestic, "I don't know. I just do not know what it will be like. I just hope it will be better than last Christmas. I didn't get what I wanted."

Cerliss Rogers

Gay Miller

Gary Kelser

Jenny Dorsey

R. B. Jones: Endangered species

The newspaper business is full of irony. In the Tuesday edition of this paper, our front page featured a tragic story of two brothers gunned down in the senseless Saturday night violence that plaques our community. In the same column, two stories down there was a story about a conference sponsored by the Urban League, scheduled for next week, entitled "Black Men as Endangered Species?"

Despite the tragedy of Saturday night that took two members of the Cobb family and the many others like it, black men are not an endangered species.

We are not an endangered species because unlike lower forms of life which live on instinct and are unable to cope with the pressures of their environment, we are reasoning beings who can change our world.

The forces that destroy many black men are neither natural nor insurmountable. Those forces are racism and capitalism and they are very familiar.

The Urban League conference will in all possibility be very informative, especially for those not too familiar with the statistical picture, but any serious discussion of the problem of genocide against black men should deal with the root cause and some solutions.

When the conferees lament the number of black men who are incarcerated they should also be aware that the American criminal justice system deals with people on the basis of race, class and political orientation. Blacks are arrested and incarcerated at a disproportionate rate.

Poor people are arrested and imprisoned at a disproportionate rate. When one realizes that one third of all black people in this country are poor, the conditions exist for an excessive number of black men being incarcerated.

It is no aberration of nature that causes the fratricidal violence among black men that is the leading cause of death for black men in their teens and their early 20s.

Black men kill each other, often for frivolous reasons because oppressed people have historically been violent with each other. They turn their violence and hatred in on themselves unconsciously. Their self hatred corrupts and one of their brothers ends up dead. Whenever oppressed people develop a liberation movement that channels their misplaced anger toward the true target, fratricidal violence lessens.

At the conference, the subject of male responsibility for the issue of teenage pregnancies will be discussed along with, the problem of fathers deserting their families and not providing support payments. These issues are part of the black family crisis that has been debated since Daniel Patrick Moynihan issued his infamous report talking about the pathology of the Negro family and the black matriarchy that according to Moynihan was crushing the masculinity of the black male.

Participants at the Urban League conference hopefully will place any discussion of the crisis of black families within the context of the dissolution or transformation of the family in general.

Husbands in general are deserting their families and leaving them in such dire economic straits that federal and state governments are balking at their increasing role in picking up the tab.

It is not merety moral degeneracy that makes many black men fail to live up to their family responsibilities. There is also the factor of employment discrimination and bias in promotion. I am not saying that there aren't irresponsible men who could support their families but don't do it, but the social pressures encourage this kind of behavior.

A few years ago, William Ryan wrote a book entitled "Blaming the Victim". His book outlined the ways that the social system is programmed to create certain kinds of behavior and conditions then the defenders of the system blame the victims of those conditions for their behavior. The era of Reagan is a time for blaming the victim again.

The response of the black community to the facts and figures that will undoubtedly come to light next week at the Urban League conference must be one of institution building. Looking to the government for aid will not solve the problem. Trying the solutions that have been tried by long standing civil rights organizations will not solve the problem of genocide against black men.

Any efforts that will be successful will have to be self-help oriented. I am not absolving the government of any responsibility to the black community, as long as it collects tax money from black people, but I am pragmatic enough to realize that the regime that will be in power for the next few years, actively works against black people's interests.

Hopefully the Urban League conference will be well attended. If a broad cross section of the community comes to the conference and forms a solution oriented working coalition then the conference will be a total success. Even if it does nothing more than inform members of the community about the severity of the problem it will be a qualified success.

I hope to see a full house at Morgan State University on November 29 and 30.

NOV