Baltimore Afro-American

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Provident Hospital

Rumors are rampant that the only solution to the woes of Provident Hospital is a merger of the institution with another health-care facility.

Although no one in authority is broaching the idea of a merger, it is recognized that a quick infusion of money would supply only a short-term respite—unless the funds available were sizeable.

Survival too, is predicted on a drastic increase in the occupancy rate—nearly 85 percent is needed to survive. Efforts to reduce expenses—such as a reduction in staff by over 50 workers, would provide only temporary relief.

There are many unanswered question which must be resolved before even a discussion of merger can take place. Obviously, a merger is not a panacea which instantly would get the hopsital "off the hook."

However, it is one consideration for "down the road" thought. Perhaps the idea will be proved impractical, or completely without merit. Thinking along these lines must be investigated.

We bemoan the circumstances which brought Provident to the brink of speculation on such measures, but recognize that one cannot adopt an ostrich-like head-in-the-sand approach to reach a resolution.

Whatever efforts are made to preserve the hospital are welcome. The salvation of the hospital is too important to let petty differences hold sway.

Provident Hospital must survive!

Veteran's Day

Since Jan. 1, 1978, the official observance of Veterans Day was set at Nov. 11. It is a day in which veterans of all wars are remembered with special ceremonies at installations used by veterans.

This year, for only the second time in history, women veterans are being recognized, There are well over a million women veterans. Altogether more than 400,000 women served in World War II.

Now the U.S. House of Representatives has passed unanimously and sent to the Senate, a bill calling for three new memorials in Washington, D.C., one each for women veterans, blacks who fought in the Revolutionary War, and soldiers who served in Korea.

Cong. Parren Mitchell said that there were more than 5,000 slaves and free blacks who served as soldiers or sailors or provided civilian assistance in the Revolution.

"They were not even considered as human beings. They were slaves. But they desired to stand with others who sought freedom for this nation," said the Congressman.

We applaud the proposal for the memorials. For too long, black soldiers and sailors have been ignored whenever the Revolutionary War is mentioned.

The role of women in the military has been given short shrift— and often overlooked, while the exploits of the military nurse corps has come in for its share of recognition, women in other branches have not.

Korean veterans have never been accorded the stature of say, a World War II vet. Probably more about the Korean conflict, as it was called, has surfaced through the antics of the TV series M.A.S.H. than in any other way.

Hooray for the proposed memorials—they are long overdue. Lets hope that the Republican-majority Senate won't shoot down this worthwhile venture.

Parren J. Mitchell

Closing the door—behind the closed door

Clarence Thomas, who heads the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, has announced that the Commission will abolish quotas that are required for federal agencies involving promotion and hiring of women, blacks and other minorities.

This action is a serious blunder by the Commission, but is right in line with the pernicious practices of Reagan, Meese and Bradford Reynolds.

One constituent said to me recently, "These men are determined to establish once again that America will be run as the land of white males, for white males and by whites males."

It is stupid of the Commission to close the door on us, but even more appalling is what goes on now behind that closed door. Our Baltimore District Office is typical of those around the country. The Baltimore District Office has dictated a new settlement agreement eliminating any type of confidentiality provisions.

If an investigator should prevail in obtaining approval of a violation case, their efforts are sabotaged through the conciliation process.

The Baltimore District Office has eliminated any type of confidentiality provisions in exchange for voluntary settlement. In order to voluntarily settle a complaint, an employer is required to:

1. notify their employees that they have discriminated against John Doe and any others;
2. promise not to discriminate in the future;
3. state the type of remedy granted to John Doe; and,
4. accept only full remedy, even though the complainant is willing to accept a lesser remedy.

No employer, to date, will even entertain the possibility of thinking about accepting such an agreement, they think that the management staff at E.E.O.C. has gone crazy. As a result, the violation case is sent to Washington headquarters, never to be heard from again.

For state and local Government employees to file a complaint of discrimination is an exercise in futility. Under the new conciliation policy, failure of conciliation is automatic. The case is forwarded to the Department of Justice, which routinely gives the person permission to file a court suit at their own expense.

State and local government management personnel are well aware of this; therefore, they make no effort to change their racist attitudes.

Some investigators, in a desperate effort to try to obtain some type of relief in cases where there is a clear violation, try to get the employer and the complainant to settle the dispute among themselves in turn for the withdrawal of the charge. (In these cases, the Commission still takes credit for the settlement).

Certainly the national Commission and the district offices must know that deliberate, calculated efforts to deny relief from racial discrimination builds up frustrations and tensions, not only for those who are employed but also for the so-called "street people" who while wanting employment cannot get it.

They can say to those who are employed and are victims of discrimination, "See the man is kicking you around, so forget all that legal stuff, and join us in our plan to end this mess our way."

Closing the door and skulduggery behind the closed door merely fans the flames of discontent, alienation, and frustration. If those flames are fanned too high, our community and our country will pay the price for stupidity.

Anthony Armstrong

Woman's Yin And Yang

The yin and yang of things is really a simplistic way of seeing a person's life, but one interview and a deadline do force assessments that paint in hues of black and white. Stark colors, pointing-up in high relief showing, again, the yin and the yang of this woman, who has so graciously agreed to allow me to publicize her.

Her profile is clear, half her glorious size, half a totally, almost unbearably cerebral side, pressing for legitimacy, assurance, and understanding. In relative terms she produces a level of energy fueled by the action/reaction cycle of human productivity, all cause and effect, supremely opposite, again, all yin and yang. Her motives seem to be want and need, need and want. Her spirit is the "come-back" kind; back on even keel after a road that travelled, first, uphill, then flat, to fall, to fall, to fall down a deep personal, romantic, and physical hole.

Born in Antigua to swaddling clothes, reared by her mother, a woman good enough to have her, but not her father; she is now businesswoman, mother, civic leader, champion of the dignity of women, siren. She requires stimuli, touch her, affect her; that's it, challenge her, give it than take it away, do something. Expect her to lead, expect her to follow but follow only after you have shown her, you know the way! She's every woman, she's only you yet, she's only herself.

Her only real problem, she admits, is "My tendency to be too trusting." Yet, the array of her attributes is so formidable that even such an easily discoverable frailty is quickly compensated for, by her scope and vision. This balance is, again, her weakness and her strength; her yin and her yang. "I'm in control, not born with it, but I've acquired it over the years."

Sometime, though, America, particularly American men, force her to hold it in - so as not to frighten them and cause them to shy away. She is a courageous woman, who tires easily of the negative attitudes of her "sisters," who only wish to talk and lay. But don't expect her to kick them, she is acutely aware that so much of what modern women are is not of their choosing.

I wanted to talk with Elaine Simon because she presented so many of the things that today's woman is supposed to personify: education, beauty, intelligence, motherly love, independence, wholesomeness; the quintessential lady, in the street, and, well you know, in the boudoir. My private knowledge of her is zero; publicly, however, she is all of the above. She never entertains failure, but she wishes her fight was not such a lonely one. Her army should be, she presses on, "All the other Amazons, all the other women." There is no war here against men, that's the furthest thing from her mind; her fight is with other ladies.

"The point is, she says, "If I can do it, we can do it." "If I'm strong, my man can be stronger, if I can keep my dignity, even in the face of abuse, so can we all, if I can get an education, even after having children, so can Mary, and Peggy, and Brenda, and Eleanor." Women don't need to be weak, just to please a man; a strong woman needs, only, a stronger man. This theme, this yin and yang, carries with it some risk; yet, dependency carries far more.

We are seeing an America where women have become the poorest single group in the whole population. The poorer they get, the more they become prey; the more they become prey, the less of their best selves belongs to them. The pull of the poverty, for creatures so unattuned to stress, makes America's women tuck their tales in between their legs too much. The auto repairman takes advantage, the boss pinches and gets mad if the woman fights back, the clothiers sing their song - clothes, more clothes, get more clothes; and all the time we say, under our breathes, "only pay her 60 cents for every dollar you pay him."

Oh sure, there's a war on but what else is new? We have always been at war with woman, you know, the battle of the sexes. For women, though, the issue is not whether men will be men; the issue is what the individual woman's preparation, for our childish ways, will be. In the black community, where kindness is often looked on as only weakness, how much do women hobble themselves by confusing the two? There are allies, but do modern women cause them too often to turn their backs? Are the problems one of social structure, that keep a "good" woman down? After all, regrettably, is the woman to be no more than she is today? For Elaine, the answer is yes, the answer is no. It's a woman's yin and yang.

Letters

In support of private schools

There is a movement in this country to make public education the exclusive educational system. One of the first acts of a totalitarian regime is to gain exclusive control by the state of education.

The primary right to educate resides with parents. This right is bestowed by the Creator and no government or constitution can abrogate it. The state is an unwelcome intruder onto the field of education. But there is one way to eject it from the field. The people through their instructed legislators can refuse to appropriate funds for public education. Elect to office legislators at all levels of government that will put control of education back into the hands of parents.

One of the most onerous influences on education is the Federal Government. The Federal Department of Education forces its onerous programs on the state and local school systems. I think that the minimum goal of parents should be the shutting down of the Federal Department of Education. Parents can do this by writing their national legislators to vote against all federal funding of education.

On the state and local levels, elect legislators that are committed to parents' rights and private sector education. If the state and local governments don't respond to parents' grievances, they should be treated the same. We don't have to pay to the state billions of dollars to do our bookkeeping. We can manage our own affairs.

CORNELIUS U. MORGAN

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.

COMMENTARY:

NAACP: Yesterday, today and tomorrow?

William G. Lunsford

Recent newspaper ads indicate that the Baltimore branch of the NAACP is in the process of hiring a new executive director. Unless the recruitment effort is part of a process to completely restructure the organization, then, I ask, why bother?

Oops! There I go again, being sacrilegious, attacking a valued black institution. Actually, it is not that way at all.

I clearly recognize that the NAACP is a venerable organization, having been at the forefront of the quest for black equality for many years. The American version of apartheid would still be in place, without the efforts of the NAACP and other civil rights organizations. The NAACP has desevedly earned its place in the annals of black America.

Acknowledging all of the above, however, (here comes the other shoe), I am also aware, that for more than a decade, the NAACP has sought to sustain its existence based on its past triumphs.

Despite how glorious the past record happens to be, I feel it is a legitimate question for people to ask, "What have you done for me lately?"

Nearly a majority of Balimore's black population has no direct knowledge of America's segregationist past, and the involvement of the NAACP and other groups in bringing that period of history to a close.

The logic of saying, we would not be where we are at the present time, without the efforts of the NAACP, fails as the raison d'etre for the organization's continued existence.

To apply such logic is as reasonable as my saying that without racism, there would have been no NAACP, therefore we should pay homage to the existence of racism. Nonsense! Right?

The battle for equality has not been won. Racism still plagues black America as a fact of everyday life. But, times and circumstances have changed. Unfortunately, the NAACP has not changed commensurately.

The need of black America in 1985 are quite different than the needs of 1965. The NAACP is partly responsible for those changed needs. The fact is that, currently, there are a variety of organizations and agencies which do a better job of doing what the NAACP once did so well.

As examples: in the area of housing, I cannot imagine the NAACP being more successful in finding and rooting out instances of racial discrimination than Baltimore Neighborhoods has been able to do; when it comes to employment discrimination.

There are many attorneys and organizations, such as the Vulcan Blazers and The Vanguard Justice Society, who have demonstrated their ability to address unequal employment opportunities in the workplace.

On the issue of South Africa, can the NAACP be more successful in arousing the nation's conscience than Trans Africa and The Free South Africa Movement has been?

The listing of examples could go on, but it is not necessary. You can supply the additional examples.

Success with its previous mission has

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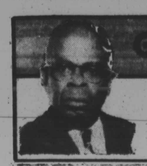

G. James Fleming

On many things

It should not go unnoticed that the two black-directed savings and loan associations in Baltimore were never in any trouble, even at the height of the state's S. and L. scandal.

Both Advance Federal Savings and Loan Ass'n and Ideal Savings and Loan Ass'n were "clean," well-managed, safe, and showed the strengths which come when banks put banking first in their activities, rather than engaging in countless speculative and high-risk adventures, even though the latter way pay the highest dividends.

Yes, both of these black-owned S. and L.'s, in addition to their unblemished reputation down the years, are federally insured and 100 per cent safe and sound. They deserve a larger share of our banking business.

Even those who have their fingers crossed must, nevertheless, be praying that some constructive results will come out of the summit meeting in Geneve between Ronald Reagan, our president, and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union.

So much of the future depends on their meeting of minds! It is to be hoped that both of them can put PR and charisma aside and work for the supreme good of both their peoples and all people--the generation present and the generations unborn, regardless of race, color, religion, ethnic and nationality background, or geographical location.

Seldom have we known of any group of people who worked so hard, enjoyed themselves so much, had so much to show for their efforts, and were in such good spirits afterwards, as were the sponsors of the recent presidential Inauguration Gala and the Inauguration Ball of Morgan State University.

Some committee members were fearful that Baltimore could not support two "affairs," on succeeding nights, at a joint cost of $90 per person, not including transportation and other et ceteras. "Not even for scholarship," some prophesied.

But Baltimore did it, although not every patron attended both functions. The formal ball, sponsored by the Inaugural Committee, netted $15,000, and the gala (mainly an awards dinner), sponsored by the Morgan Foundation, netted $40,400--a hefty total of $55,400 for scholarship aid for needy students.

And a tremendous show of unity among the leadership of the community for "Fair Morgan" and the new administration of President Earl S. Richardson.

Perhaps this successful effort for scholarship should become an annual event.

Despite a national administration considered unfriendly, the signs of forward movement, progress, evidence themselves here and there all the time. Not earth-shaking, perhaps, but progress, nevertheless.

Latest is the assignment of Wayne G. Davis as the special agent or "head man" of the FBI office in Philadelphia. Not so long ago, in FBI history, no black person, could hope to be in charge of so important a district, or of Davis' earlier posts in Indianapolis and Detroit. In fact, in the years of J. Edgar Hoover, there were mighty few blacks in the FBI in any capacity.

One of the inscrutables of the human condition is the way different groups of otherwise decent people get their "backs up" in opposition to the building, in their neighborhoods, of a prison, a highway, or a halfway house, or a home for the retarded. Sometime protest is waged even against schools and hospitals.

Most people appreciate the need for prisons, for instance. In fact, the protesters mentioned above are not against the unwanted institutions. But, "Build them somewhere else," they shout...

Sometimes it is "Put that highway, with the heavy, noisy trucks, some place else."

Further "A School? Those brats will walk all over our lawn. Build it over there; not here."

And so it goes.

Suppose every neighborhood could have its way. . . ?

—AFRO SURVEY—

What does veterans Day mean to you?

Irving Flemming

Norman Whitby

Charles Cummings

Major Neal

This week the question to the man and woman in the street is, "What does the celebration of Veterans' Day mean to you"

Irving Flemming, mason, 34, "Veterans' Day doesn't mean anything to me because I am a veteran. My time was wasted as far as I am concerned. They mistreated me. All Viet vets should feel bad. They put us in a war that wasn't anything to be gained from. Veterans' Day is just a day off."

Norman Whitby, 46, baker, "I never gave it a thought. I don't get that day off. So it is not a holiday for me. It's just another day in the week."

Charles Cummings, 69, retired, "Veterans' Day means that a soldier gives his life for his country for liberty and justice—that his life wasn't in vain. That this gentleman gave his life to make it better for everybody."

Major Neal, 39, bus driver, "It's a day that the U.S. honors its vets, the people who went overseas and gave their lives in the service of their country. I think that every day should be veterans' day. that every day should be Veterans' Day, I have deep feelings because I am a vet. My situation is one of the vets that were I have mixed emotions. I have the utmost respect for those who served previously, but my hostile feelings are toward this country because they forgot about us, and we deserve a just cause."

Timothy Hunt, 26, truckdriver, "Veterans' Day means a great deal to me. I know a lot of vets. I had a brother-in-law who was in Vietnam. He was injured during the war."

Jacques Lee-Bey, 33, bailiff, "I'm a vet myself. It is a day set aside to honor their vets. So to me, it is a holiday for me. I feel as though it should be a vets day. It is the least a country could do as far as paying back its vets. If I were in actual combat, I might feel differently (like some Nam vets). But, I'm no better. I can smypathize with Nam vets.

Dr. Larry Little, 34, civil engineer, "It's a day we honor most of our vets. We don't honor all of them. We don't honor the Vietnam vet or the blacks. So basically it has become a legal holiday, a day for fun and games and relaxation. I was a Nam vet and I got out of it in 1969, and I've never been honored. It just doesn't honor new vets. In fact, they're cutting off the new vet's pension, early retirement, and education, the G.I. bill, and education for vets, etc. The Veterans' Day, needs total re-evaluation."

Oliver J. Anderson, 76, retired, "I think of Veterans' Day as a great thing. Veterans' Day. is exactly what it says, 'Veterans' Day.' A day to honor the people who served their country. I had a brother in the army and two uncles in the army, two nephews in the army and now two grandchildren. In fact, my great-grandfather was in the Civil War. So, Veterans' Day has a lot of meaning for me."

Timothy Hunt

Jacques Leed-Bey

Dr. Larry Little

Oliver J. Anderson

November 11, 1985 will be Veteran's Day.

Originally recognized as Armistice Day to commemorate the formal ending of World War I, in 1985, it is still a time of celebration.

For blacks who were known as "Negroes or Colored," at that time, those who wore uniforms in that "war to end wars" were segregated into service capacities.

Those who fought on the front lines did so under the colors of Canadian soldiers. Life for black soldiers was hell.

As long as they wore the livery of Uncle Sam, they cleaned the latrines, worked on the roads, cooked the food, maintained the vehicles.

As fighters, when trained for the infantry during World War I, colored GI's were denied rifles and were forced to use broomsticks.

Racism prevailed.

A few colored soldiers who fought in World War I returned to the States covered with glory. They were called The Fighting 369th.

Decorated with the Croix de Guerre by the French, historians recall when the blacks marched down New York's Broadway in a ticker tape parade; they put on a show that only brothers can stage.

High stepping, precision, immaculate, and proud, they were received enthusiastically by the appreciative parade watchers.

The day after the heroe's welcome, the flags stopped waving. the confetti was swept up and the rest of refuse was gathered, the reality for the Black heroes decreased.

They returned under the colors of red, blue and white of the USA, although they bore arms under the flag of Canada as an ally.

"Close Ranks" was the title of the NAACP's great leader Williams E.B. DuBois' plea to the second-class residents of this nation during era of crisis.

DuBois believed that the agenda of the day was for all Americans, black and white, to forget the racial issues and solve the global issues.

DuBois and the black vets of World War I got a bitter lesson. One of being "used."

Negroes, coloreds, blacks have historically "been used:

Just Thinking

Importance of Veterans Day

By Al Sweeney

By industry to undermine the union, as scrubs by unions to eliminate cheap labor, by politicians striving for office, by rent gouging landlords, and high-priced merchants, blacks have been used for exploitation.

Within ten years after World War I ended, this nation was plunged into the deepest recession of history.

Bank and oil scandals, the rise of hate groups such as the KKK. Black people lost their homes and the poor became poorer.

Blacks were the most affected, of course.

Came the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the black vote, traditionally Republican, switched parties to join labor, liberals and in a strange partnership with "solid south" to assume national political reigns.

Readers of history know the story. Came the "day of infamy" Dec. 7, when the Japanese dropped bombs on Pearl Harbor, World War II found the U.S. fighting on two fronts – The Japanese on the Pacific front and the Germans and Italians in Europe.

Blacks and whites, alike, got their "greetings." Those who were mustered into uniforms after passing physicals, were separated by race.

The early days of World War II found black GI's shunted into the horrible training centers. Many balked. Many became involved in uprisings.

With pressure from black readers, particularly the black press, FDR's war advisors made several concessions to the black draftees.

Blacks began to serve in the Navy on the topside of war vessels as seamen rather than buried in the hole as servants and stewards, busboys, waiters and cooks.

Blacks were recruited and assigned to the U.S. Marines, previously forbidden territory.

Finally, pressure exerted by civil rights leaders and the black press, blacks were finally trained as fliers. They became part of the Air Force and received their initial training at Tuskegee, Alabama.

Though trained to fly with hand-me-down equipment on a grassy field, the Tuskegee fliers and earned their wings.

Black leaders also encouraged that blacks trained in combat companies should be utilized in combat.

Because of my employment as a reporter with the black press, my brother, John, assigned to duty in the South Pacific, wasn't too happy about this insistence on black participation in combat.

There were many other uniformed black GI's unhappy about this combat campaign.

As the war got tougher, the blacks trained for combat duty were pressed into action. During World War II they were part of the North African campaign, the retreat at Dunkirk, the invasion of Normandy. They rode the tanks with General Patton on the Red Ball drive in Europe, moved with MacArthur in the Pacific and wherever the Yanks fought, black separate units were around and getting killed.

The Doctor Says:

House Dust Allergy

By Floyd Malveaux, M.D.

Allergy to housedust may be an important cause of allergic symptoms. Decreasing one's exposure to dust may decrease significantly these symptoms.

There are many components in housedust to which an individual may be allergic; however, the most important is the house dust mite.

This is a microscopic, insect-like, creature which is found in homes. It thrives in humid and warm conditions and lives primarily in mattresses, carpets, and upholstered furniture.

The greatest source of dust mite exposure in the home is the bedroom mattress which provides the most suitable conditions of warmth, humidity, and food for growth.

They also may be found in blankets, pillows, curtains, and similar fabrics. Damp houses yield many more mites than dry ones. Hot and humid weather tends to promote growth of mites.

Animal danders are also important components of dust that are capable of causing allergies. Dried skin cells from cats and dogs are the most common allergens derived from animals.

Cats cause allergic symptoms much more frequently than dogs. The hair from animals is less likely to be the cause of symptoms than skin cells or even protein from the saliva.

The skin cells which are shed from household pets mix with dust particles and are hence capable of causing allergic symptoms.

The protein that is most likely to cause allergy to cat is found in the saliva and in the sebaceous glands of the skin. The protein which causes allergy to dog is not as well identified.

However, it appears that some breeds of dogs are more likely to be a source of allergic symptoms for some individuals.

Since the hair of dogs is not the primary source of allergic symptoms, one can not assume that short haired breeds of dogs will be less likely to cause allergies.

Another source of material in dust that causes allergic problems is derived from insect parts. Such insects may include bettles, cockroaches, crickets, and moths.

These insect parts get mixed into dust samples and are spread throughout the house during sweeping, dusting, and when the furnace blower is in operation.

Finally, other inhalants in dust that are capable of causing allergic symptoms include particles of mold spores and allergens of plant origin. Molds appear as mildew and grow indoors and outdoors in damp environments.

—NAACP

Continued from page 1

essentially left the NAACP without a viable current mission. The result is that the local branch has been reduced to making feeble protests of inconsequential matters, such as the location of a model of an African village at the Baltimore City Zoo.

There is a future role the NAACP can play in addressing the needs of Baltimore's black population.

Many of the major problems facing us, such as drug and alcohol abuse, the soaring rate of black birth out-of-wedlock, and violence on our streets, are internal to our population.

For the most part these issues are either not being addressed or being addressed inadequately. The NAACP can possibly step in and fill the leadership vacuum which presently exists.

However, in order to be effective, the NAACP must also undergo a change in its operational structure.

Being the director of the Baltimore NAACP is analogous to being an invisible figurhead, if that makes any sense to you.

A figurhead is a person who is placed in a position which has the title of authority, but no real power. An invisible figurhead is a person who is given the title, not given any authority and is hidden from public view.

In the world of organizations, the invisible figurhead is as close as you possibly can come to being given a winter vacation in Siberia.

If black Baltimoreans were asked, in a poll, to identify the immediate past Director of the Baltimore NAACP, I am confident that few of the respondents would be able to provide the correct answer.

The names of some other persons who are involved with the organization would undoubtedly crop up. And that is one of the main problems the organization faces.

The NAACP organizational structure is such that even if the organization found a viable mission, it would probably still have difficulty fulfulling that mission.

Rather than the local NAACP being led by its director, the organization is, instead, directed by the President of its Board. This arrangement, therefore, leaves the director in a position of having no power to lead.

As evidence of how useless the position of director is, consider the manner in which the board of directors is constituted.

First there are the officers, who are elected by the membership. Second, there is a group of board members who are also elected by the membership.

And then, and in my estimation this is the most important classification, there are the committee chairpersons, who are also board members, appointed, ostensibly, by the president and the director. (In reality the Committee Chairs are appointed by the President)

The problem is that these appointed board members constitute a majority of the board membership. Therefore, the president, and not the director, has the greatest influence on the organization's operations.

The local situation is made even worse by virtue of the fact that the local board president is also the president of the board of the national organization.

With the national office moving its headquarters to Baltimore next year, what effect will the current leadership arrangment have on the operation of the local chapter?

I can't see how the effectiveness of the local NAACP can possibly be enhanced, without changes in the structure.

The NAACP needs to restructure its organizational mechanisms to provide a greater degree of authority for its director, and to provide for a combination of elected and appointed board members, where emphasis is placed on the ability of persons to further the achievement of the organization's objectives, rather than emphasizing personal considerations.

The current organizational arrangement has facilitated the development of a "cult of personality," where personal fealty is confused with what is best for the organization.

There can be a bright tomorrow for the local branch of the NAACP if those who profess to care so much about the organization's future are willing to bite the bullet, and make the hard decisions that are needed to assure a bright future.

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