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Christmas 1985

"Tis the season to be jolly," at least that's what the song says. In some ways this holiday season is a joyous one for some black Baltimoreans. Provident Hospital has been saved, ensuring that several hundred workers will retain their jobs.

On the other hand workers at Parks Sausages might be facing the loss of their jobs or a move to Philadelphia if plans for a stadium come to fruition and force them out of their present location. This uncertainty will put at least some anxiety in their Christmas Season.

City workers face grim prospects if the projected budget of the federal government includes the elimination of revenue sharing which President Reagan has sought.

Baltimore could be faced with the grim prospect of raising the properly tax to unbearable levels or laying off a large number of city workers and cutting back municipal services.

Despite the many grim and unpleasant things that plague Baltimoreans such as crime and violence in the streets, rampant teenage pregnancy and the unemployment and homelessness that still devastates much of the community, there is hope and optimism and joy in the community also.

This joy comes from sharing with loved ones the good times and the bad. It also comes from helping others. Optimism and hope come from the spiritual faith that many in the community feel and from the efforts of a small but dedicated few who continually strive to make the world better. This is still a pleasant season of the year despite all.,

Parren J. Mitchell

Gramm-Rudman: A nightmare comes true

Action on the skyrocketing deficit is a political imperative for Congress, but, Gramm-Rudman is not the answer.

The bill's impact would be immediate, requiring deficit drops in 1987, to $144 billion; in 1988, $108 billion; 1989, $72 billion; 1990, $36 billion; and in 1991, a balanced budget. Gramm-Rudman sets annual savings targets designed to reduce the deficit to nothing by 1991.

And this bill was passed!

Statements on the House floor cried that this legislation, "fails miserably on economic ground," "condemns us to perpetual slow economic growth," "ties Congress in knots," "could be a disaster," and "is dangerous, unfair, unworkable and unconstitutional." But, this bill was passed!

Why was this bill passed? A bill that hides its malicious intent behind a few domestic programs it labels "exempt from cuts," when there are dozens and dozens of nonexempt domestic programs that will bear the burden of greater cuts to make up for those protected.

It has already been predicted that Reagan's next budget will call for the elimination of 30 to 50 domestic programs. It would include many cuts proposed by Reagan last year in programs such as the Small Business Administration and Amtrak.

There would be outright reductions and terminations proposed in such domestic programs as student aid and assistance to states and cities and other controllable nondefense programs which provide sustenance for the poor and most vulnerable people in our society—thus, damaging an important infrastructure for economic, social and political development of those groups already denied equality.

Why this bill? A bill that fronts a sacrifice in purporting that defense will bare 50 percent of the cuts. Automatic spending cuts equally spread between military and domestic programs would not take effect unless Congress fails to pass a budget that achieves the required savings.

The propensity of Congress is such that Gramm-Rudman passed, then the momentum is such that Congress will pass a budget that "fits the hill" before sacrificing 50 percent in defense cuts.

The mood is plain to see. "Special housing for the elderly, the handicapped, and the homeless will be automatically cut next year. Deductions for vacation homes will not."

"Meal-on-wheels programs will be part of sequestration orders. Deductible for business lunches, dinners, and entertainment will not." Supplemental security income (unemployment compensation) is exempt, while the programs aimed at curing that problem will suffer automatic cuts.

And it must be noted that while some programs ARE exempt from cuts, this will not automatically entitle these programs to the increases they will need as the cost-of-living rises and the need grows for more to be served through these programs.

All of this pointed out on the floor, and more. But this bill was passed!

There are those that assess this astonishing feat as going so far (as to get passed) because everyone is "scared to death of being labelled as having voted against a balanced budget."

Instead, I see it as going so far because it presents a prime opportunity for this Congress to show its true colors while purporting good intentions.

A grand occasion to misrepresent the people and claim no responsibility. Everyone's misery can be attributed to a budget process that is on automatic pilot... beyond our control.

One proponent on the House floor said, "This bill has swept Congress like a brush fire. A brush fire can be fearsome if uncontrolled, but it can also clear the ground for new growth."

A brush fire always destroys what's most vulnerable in its path. Thus, those just getting on their feet have the ground pulled from under them again.

Because this bill was passed.

Anthony Armstrong

Making a list, and checking it twice

Everyone remembers sitting around the table, making the annual Christmas list. The list would always conclude in being a matter of the family's reach exceeding its grasp but; no one ever seemed disappointed, knowing that the family Christmas list was always a compromise between what they all wanted and what they would ultimately get.

The whole phenomenon of Christmas would start right after Thanksgiving and, as the days past, the entire chemistry of "joy to the world, peace on Earth, goodwill toward men" would create combinations of thoughts that everyone wished they could hold onto, throughout the coming year.

The adults, at such a time, would want and dream, and then in noble mental acts, they'd defer their desires, in favor of those of the children.

Dad would always put himself last on the list, mother next to last (even though secretly she was first with dad), and the children, of course, would be first.

The alignment was a classic one, giving the man of the house renewed status as "the first shall be last," coupling mom to him, and crowning the total concept, of the family Christmas, with the real meaning of family - the children.

It has only been since the rise of the single parent family, with one parent competing with the other for the "most" love of the children, that Christmas has become a two families-in-one toy race toward the title of "the parent that did the most for you, kid."

The list of Christmas sensitive concerns is really not a long one and; if it is properly drawn it will start with the baby Jesus and end with the love He gave to each of us.

From that beat, the love of Jesus, all else, that is good, will come forth. We refer to the gifts and all the other traditions, that Sears, or Toys R Us, or any of thousands of merchants are happy to sell. Yet, beyond these things, we trumpet all the things that make life, gift or no gift, so enjoyable to live.

First, can you imagine a Christmas list without God the Father as the most wanted item? Such a list will surely be barren, no matter what else is on it.

For our second entry, we must add The Son of Man, Jesus, the one for whom all the fuss is made, in the first place. Now add the Sun and the Moon; close behind place the stars, particularly the Star of Behtlehem.

Without it the precious baby might not have been found in time. From this start, add the wonderful factor of free will; it is this element that separated you and me from being little more than a dog (no insult to dog lovers).

We all live in a society that, though not perfect, is still sane enough to practice the human code of "if you don't bother me, I won't bother you." Without such a human understanding, none of us could do more than clean our guns everyday, for the fight we know must come.

Human imagination couldn't range the full majesty of God's creation and, fear would blunt every human action and thought.

Love could have no place in such a world and, without love the human circle definitely would be broken.

In our Christmas list the ways of the honest will always prevail over the chancey nature of the lie. Truth, then, is on our list because it gives us all a place to "stop-the-buck" and, that place is with each of us.

The gift of Christmas gives each of us the right to know His truth, in whatever way we see it, with the comfort of knowing that we are forgiven if we see with an intent that is good.

Christmas is not supposed to make everything come true. But Christmas does is renew our faith that one day we will know truth, through God, and that this will make us free.

As for freedom, Christmas makes it so too. Our freedoms are not to be able to "shout fire in a crowded room" but; instead, to go into the room, any room.

The freedom of Christmas is that given to all mankind, the mercy of Christmas is the power of God, that each man is a king, each woman is a queen and, each life enduring forever. Make a list, check it twice; if God begins and ends your list, your Christmas will be Merry!

Provident recovery

The business plan that was unveiled this week by Provident Hospital Trustee George Russell is the fruit of feverish labor in the midst of a near fatal crisis at the institution.

Russell and his management team came in when the hospital was given up for dead by friend and casual observer alike and made some hard and painful decisions.

With the unveiling of this plan it is very likely that Provident will receive the $2.5 million that the governor had promised if the hospital came up with a satisfactory business plan.

The additional money, along with the funds that the state put out earlier and the $1 million provided by the City of Baltimore last week, has resolved the immediate crisis that the hospital faces.

The business plan addresses issues relating to the future solvency of the hospital. One point that was emphasized repeatedly is that no institution in these changing days in the health care industry can stand alone and the business plan outlines some ways that Provident can develop significant linkages with other institutions, such as health maintenance groups and other hospitals.

Negotiations are in progress with University Hospital and Lutheran Hospital to create a west Baltimore health care delivery system that will share equipment and avoid duplication. This had to be because a state funded consultant study on excess bed capacity in hospitals statewide recommended either merger of hospitals or the closure of several in the city and Provident because of its low rating in the report was in danger of being closed or truncated.

By Provident Hospital taking steps to accommodate the state mandate for cost containment and the elimination of duplication of services prior to being forced to do so by the state, the hospital management has been able to give the hospital more say in its future direction.

It seems that Provident is out of the woods financially for the moment, but the bottom line is that black health care professionals and black health care recipients must have confidence in the hospital and support it. Regardless of what one thinks of the management team and its methods it has saved Provident Hospital when many in the c hids munity would not come forward to do so.

They have preserved the hospital's name and identity as a black institution. They have brought disparate elements of the hospital together and worked out compromises that everyone may not like but must have said they can live with.

The goal now is to make the hospital profitable enough that it can keep up with technological innovation in health care while restoring the losses that the workers have accepted in order to keep the institution afloat. Their sacrifice of wages must be replaced as soon as possible so that they will not become sacrifical lambs.

Provident is out of the woods for now, but the community must become vigilant so that it will never be allowed to deteriorate again.

LETTERS

Provident Hospital

I would to express my deep concern and opposition to two recent proposals concerning Provident Hospital: one suggesting the merger of Provident with another hospital and the second proposing a reduction in the number of beds from 271 to about 150.

My past association with the hospital as a member of its Board of Trustees, and a former Chairman of the Board, as well as my past experience as a Chairman and commissioner of the Baltimore City Planning Commission, and as a member of the Regional Planning Council, not to mention my broad professional, community and political involvements, give me a unique vantage point from which to comment on the hospital's past and future direction. And it is my position that Provident remain a separate corporate entity and expand its present services.

First, a perspective on Provident's past. For 90 years (and more) Provident has served the Baltimore community with distinction as a provider of full service health care.

To Black health care practitioners, nurses and technicians, Provident was once one of the few institutions in the nation that provided the opportunity for residency training, technical training, staff privileges and employment opportunities.

For the Black citizens of Baltimore, Provident was at one time the only institution that offered a full range of services with dignity. At present less than ten such institutions continue to exist as separate entities in this country.

Through the efforts of many, the present site for Provident was acquired and the excellent physical plant constructed. Provident has now reached the point in its development that it is a major employer of Blacks and other minorities in the City of Baltimore and the largest business or institution owned by and under the corporate control of the Black community.

Additionally, the primary consumer to which it provides services, the Black community, is a population in excess of 400,000 people in Baltimore City, and as an ethnic group, is the largest purchaser of basic consumer jobs and services in the City of Baltimore.

Over the past ten years, there have been changes in focus in the health care industry. There has also been tremendous fragmentation in the leadership of the hospital such that inadequate attention has been given to how this institution can best market and serve the consumers of its services in the future.

Additionally, integration has created competition for the consumers of health care services in Baltimore City and competition in the area of staffing, factors which have impacted upon the hospital's resources, but also create a challenge for the future of the institution. However, there is no doubt that health care is big business in this city and in this country!

What must now occur is that the leadership of this community and primarily the Black leadership with all of its excellent resource of professionals, including business executives, physicians, labor leaders, lawyers, accountants, marketing experts, politicians and others must take the bull by the horn and develop a plan that will make Provident one of the leading health complexes in the country.

With efficient planning, the strongest of the services that are now provided should be marketed and other forms of allied health care can be developed on other portions of the site where the hospital is presently located.

It is well known that Provident has one of the best locations of any institution of its kind in the City of Baltimore. Its proximity to surface and subway transportation is unsurpassed. Provident must be made an uncompromising "cause" with the objective being that the positive future of the hospital is of paramount importance, especially in its catchment area and to the total Black population of the city of Baltimore.

I would like to express my admiration for the excellent job, Atty. George Russell, Del. Elijah Cummings and the Legislative Black Caucus, Gov. Hughes, Mayor Schaefer, Aller Quille and others have done in their efforts to prevent the closing of this wonderful institution.

George L. Jude

Commentary

Black to colored?

As we take our attention off of our own so-called struggles over here, to concentrate with rapt attention on the very real struggle in South Africa, our own oppression and victimization is being even more satisfactorily entrenched here in America by those concerned.

Black South Africa does not need us to cry for them. They are past the crying stage. They are fighting and dying. We here in America are not yet willing to go that far. We are only mildly angry with disappointment at massa.

Here, we are being victimized by white America and by our own so-called leaders. White America has very subtly used one of the very ploys that

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G. James Fleming

Peace is still goal of Christmas

Lest we forget, Peace on Earth is still the goal of Christmas, as it is all year, but more accented at this time when we memorialize and honor the birth of the "Prince of Peace."

For hundreds of years — yes, nearly 2,000 years — Christians the world over have paid lip service to this quest for peace. Nevertheless, at the same time, the rulers of most countries — Christians all — have waged war against each other and against "lesser" peoples; sometimes wars have been internecine, factional killings.

War — outright declared war — and the absence of peace have busted nations and exhausted their treasuries down the years. National supremacy has been measured by the extent of military might and the number of "the enemy" killed and wounded.

All the time the nations have provided chaplains to the military, leading men and women in uniform in the singing of "Onward, Christian Soldiers," followed by poems of praise to Him who was heralded into the world with "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill towards men (and women)."

Even before the coming of the Christ, peace was a concern of the prophets, as recorded in Isaiah 11, 2, where it is said that, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Relatively few have listened, however, down the centuries. Instead in the Western world, churches and synagogues have prayed for the success of their mother countries at war, and popes and priests have blessed men and nations engaged in the killing business.

At least, at Christmas, it is fitting that we remember that peace, in the Christian context, is central to the observance of this season.

In our own era, countless men and women have taken the peace message seriously and have spent their lives dedicated to the promotion of peace and by working to prevent war among the nations and among different peoples. They have also inspired good works that bring diverse peoples together in amity and peace.

Of recent memory are George Fox founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers); Mahatma Gandhi, who delivered India out of colonial domination into independence; Martin Luther King, Jr., the revered civil rights leader whose birthday becomes an American national holiday next month.

The latter two of this trio became martyrs, assassinated, despite their constant preaching of non-violence and their victories over great military powers, without once calling on their followers to take up arms and without spending a penny on weapons of any kind.

George Fox, who founded the Quakers, advocated that his members should never take up arms against their fellowmen. By the strength of his character and commitment, he succeeded in causing many nations to accept the religious principle of "conscientious objections," respecting deeply "that of God within each person," which prevents Quakers from engaging in war, lest they violate "that of God . . ."

If 100 or 1,000 names were added of the men and women — even in the present day — who have spoken, and are speaking out, for world peace, it would fill several columns. They have also paraded, picketed, sat in and stood in, petitioned, and invaded legislatures.

It is for the rest of us, including our counterparts in the Eastern bloc countries, to remember that this Christmas is a good time to remember to ask ourselves "What am I doing to promote world peace?" "What am I doing to prevent my children and grandchildren from paying the high cost of preparing for war and prosecuting war?"

As we work for the peaceful, the brotherly way of life, we may find ourselves on the road to a meaningful and joyous Christmastide, which is the wish of this column to all its readers — and a Happy New Year.

—AFRO SURVEY—

If you had one gift to give, what would it be?

Doreen Kelly — James McNeal — William Davis — Stemen Lukes

This week the question to the man and woman in the street is, "If you had one gift to give, what would it be?"

Doreen Kelly, 18, job seeker, "I would like to be able to feed the hungry and starving children in the world. The people who waste food don't deserve anything at all. And those that harm others should have the same thing done to them."

James McNeal, 41, harbor worker, "I wish for peace in the world. I would like to help the poor people. I hope to be able to give my family the present they deserve. Thank God that I am alive to see this Christmas and hopefully many more."

William Davis, 27, field representative, "I would like for everyone in the world to have a Merry Christmas."

Stemen Lukes, 30, "I would wish that everyone would have a better Christmas. I also hope that the people would be more careful with portable heaters."

Cornelius Robinson, 63, retired, "I would like to wish the world a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I would wish for myself more money."

Natalie Alston, 19, field representative, 19, "I would like for an end of world hunger and hope that everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas."

Vandel Christian, 21, cashier, "I would like to wish for peace. Is there anything else that is needed"

Wendy Broston, 24, Baltimore Hair Studio, 24, "I would want everyone to be successful in their goals. Good cheer to everyone and a Merry Christmas. I would like to see hunger ended."

Cornelius Robinson — Natalie Alston — Vandel Christian — Wendy Broston

Bloodnotes

R. B. Jones

A letter to the black bourgoise

I don't mean to put a damper on your holiday season since I know how important socializing is to you and how distasteful serious in depth thought is, but I am compelled by my roots in the masses of black people and the warning bell of my intellect to communicate with you.

Since I read E. Franklin Frazier's book "The Black Bourgeoise" back in the middle 1960s I have had an utter fascination with you. This interest has been akin to watching a boa constrictor swallowing its prey, a mixture of repulsion and compulsion. The sight is too terrible, yet too beautiful at the same time to divert one's attention.

As a group you are lacking in courage, foresight, true education, identity, and purpose. You have neither the ruthlessness and tenacity of a conqueror or the wisdom, patience and endurance of a builder.

Worst of all you have no sense of loyalty to the generations of brutalized and murdered black people that preceded you and you appear to have no loyalty to the generation of black people who are coming after you. Since the above are true one could not expect you to have loyalty to yourselves.

But you do have the glittering diamond that shines even atop a dung heap, style. You have style about you that puts the very people you emulate, the white upper class to shame. Of course your sense of style derives from your close proximity to the black masses who are only threatening shadows on the edge of your world.

These people are the authenticators of black style and through your forays into their forbidding terrain through family connections, church connections or job connections you are able to drink from the well spring of black creativity.

Of course the whites you slavishly imitate drink from that wellspring also, but they become multi-millionaires from their distortion of black creativity which they sell to the originators to make a profit while you sit there passively consuming it. It never crosses your mind that they are selling you what they have stolen from you, does it?

Still you have style. Unfortunately you don't have substance.

That is the killing thing as far as your place in this country is concerned. You are caught between the black masses that you fear and the increasingly hostile whites who view your meager advances as bread unceremoniously ripped from the mouths of innocent white children in the name of affirmative action.

If you had substance to go with your style you would not be defensive and cowering behind neoconservatism and "pragmatic" politics, which in plain speaking means selling out to the least frightening faction in the white community.

Your once proud protest groups stand trembling and confused before the neoconservative onslaught. They are nearly penniless beggars and the oldest of these groups could not even finance its new headquarters on its own.

Not only are your protest groups bankrupt fiscally, they are bankrupt spiritually because they can not stir the masses to action nor can they command their respects because of the group's timidity and aloofness. They are also bankrupt intellectually because they have not come up with a workable idea since the 1960s and the glaring intellectual weakness of their leaders is evident by the fact that neoconservatives blacks, a kind of euphemism for traitors, are gaining legitimacy among some segments of the black community.

Perhaps you can dismiss my evalution as the rantings of a radical if you wish, it would not be the first time nor the last when the black bourgeoisis evaded reality.

Part of your obsession with stylish clothes, cars and social events is to divert yourselves from the harsher realities of being black in America. No wonder you're so stylish, your degree of it reveals your level of desperation.

But can you prove me wrong? A look at the fate of two venerable black institutions under the control of the black bourgeoise make at least part of my case.

Morgan State University has a proud history of educating black people against monumental odds. It has historically been underfunded and underequipped. The state legislature finally admitted this fact a few years ago and supposedly was going to give the school extra funds for enhancement.

The state made a turnaround this year and decreed that 27 faculty positions would have to be terminated at the school because of low enrollment when the state knew that the low enrollment has a direct relationship to the underfunding that has plagued the school.

Did the black bourgeoisie, many of whom attended Morgan, rise up to demand that the funds be given to the school and the 27 faculty positions be restored? No.

A gala ball was given for the purposes of raising scholarship money and coronating school President Richardson, I know you folks love to dress up and have a good time, but once I would like to see you people have a moratorium on social events and divert that entry and money into something constructive.

I know it's hard to overcome your frivolity sickness that's why I was not surprised when Morgan's regents spent about $160,000 on renovating the official residence of Morgan's president while other campus buildings fall into disrepair. The president needs a stylish place to entertain doesn't he?

Not only have you nearly run Morgan into the ground in the last few years, but you have done an even better job of crippling Provident Hospital. That was totally in your control for about 12 years and only the intervention of the state saved Provident from ruin.

That was your finest hour because it revealed your nepotism, pettiness, ignorance and lack of forsight. The members of your ranks who served on the board until its well deserved mercy killing by the bankruptcy judge deserve permanent enshrinement into the Hall of Shame.

Time and space will not allow me to recount your crimes against black youth through your bungling in the public school hierarchy and your almost endless number of betrays of the race in politics.

Just remember while you are commiserating about the joys of the holiday season with family and friends that history has swept sturdier groups than you onto its rubbish heap. Keep in mind also that the only constant in life is change. Happy Holidays.

Tony Brown's Commentary

Where does the money go?

More than one letter has warned me that the Buy Freedom drive to spend 50 percent of our money with a black business or professional in order to create jobs for other blacks was so sound and doable that white America couldn't afford to allow it to proceed without constructing major roadblocks.

As flattering as that piece of advice is, it has not worked out that way. In one day, an unsolicited check from a white woman arrived; a news network wants a five-minute Buy Freedom message every day over 700 radio stations; and writers from The Washington Post, The Washington Times and The Los Angeles Times conducted interviews for stories on our activities.

No, there is no movement by the white media or white people to try to derail our economic drive. But in the deep regions of some Blacks' minds, it seems, there is a hatred of anything black that is assertive. The pattern is unmistakeable.

Barbara Jean Luddy told the Columbus (Ohio) Citizen Journal, a white paper, that spending money with a black business or person is an inappropriate strategy and said, "We need to talk more about functional integration into white organizations. The very term "Buy Freedom" is repulsive to this woman, identified in the story as owner of "B.J. Luddy Enterprises, 928 Geers Ave." in Columbus.

The paper failed to mention that this is her home address and her "public relations" business is questionable or that she, in view of witnesses, asked our Buy Freedom representative to pay her to work in the campaign. It seems that the idea was acceptable if she were a paid agent.

The white Columbus paper also dug up "Eldon Ward, owner of E.E. Ward Moving and Storage, 1289 E. Main St." who said a $100 business fee to join was out of the question. "I'd also like to know where is the money going? To Tony Brown?" Good question.

During our Freedom Rally in Columbus, we raised $2,100 from the sale of 21 Freedom Seals, decals to identify black businesses that promise courteous service, competitive prices and new jobs. We raised another $400 in a collection from the 2,000 present. The $400 was promptly donated to Singletary's PlazaMart, the black-owned supermarket struggling for survival.

We also created a surge of about 4,500 shoppers the next day (up from 500) who took a written Freedom Pledge to buy from the PlazaMart and other Black businesses.

To go to Columbus, rent a unionized hall, promote the rally and campaign, print leaflets, ship and distribute 20,000 magazines (printing cost: 35 cents each), pay hotel bills and airfare for four for two separate trips, it cost the Buy Freedom drive approximately $20,000. Our loss in Columbus: $17,900!

In St. Louis, a woman on our planning committee spent our money at will for printing and other legitimate expenses, then spread the rumor that my only interest was in making money by selling $100 seals. At the St. Louis rally of 1,800, we sold 26 Freedom Seals for a total of $2,600 and collected $1,800 at the hall; our total expenses (the same categories as Columbus) were approximately $15,000. Our loss in St. Louis: $10,600!

We kicked-off our campaign in Cleveland (cost: $35,000). We collected $1,800. Our loss in Cleveland: $33,200! Again, a Cleveland business person who benefitted greatly and did not donate a dime, accused me of being primarily interested in making money.

We have sold a total of 150 decals for a total of $15,000. About 40 percent of this has been paid out in sales commissions. Our net income, therefore, is around $9,000. Expenses for three rallies alone are in excess of $70,000.

One black writer, Blanche Hamilton of the St. Louis Evening Whirl, went so far as to rumor that I was financed by "Jewish interests" as a competitor to Minister Louis Farrakhan. When contacted by phone, she admitted that she did not believe what she had written.

"Why did you write it, then?" my associate wanted to know. She merely wanted a reaction and attention, she said.

My personal financial investment in Buy Freedom will eventually pay off because everyone involved will benefit. Ask the owner of Slaughter's Cleaners in St. Louis. His 30-year business had dwindled in the last few years. Since Eugene Slaughter's introduction at our rally as a Freedom Business (owner of the Freedom Seal), he has observed an upserge in business from Blacks who have pledged to shop where they see the Freedom Seal. Many apologized for having drifted away.

—Black to colored?

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Pretoria used to divide and control. That is by dividing the one race into classes of black and colored.

In today's America the "coloreds" are those so called leaders, whether politician athletes, musician or TV entertainer who emulate whites by chemically and cosmetically altering their features to look like whites and denouncing their own natural features, culture and heritage.

In effect, we are changing blacks back to coloreds. Even worse, we are losing black men to colored homosexuality and homosexual images because they have femininized themselves with curly (white) hair, tight buttock-hugging pants, lace and feminine cosmetics and jewelry, and they flaunt themselves as representatives of the race.

The true blacks are the angry poor, the struggling, the hostile and yes, even the violent who are searching for some means to express their outrage and sense of injustice.

Their misdirected and improperly channeled innate sense of reparations manifests itself in anti-social acts such as "crime." This outrage at present can be seen throughout our society in the multiple ills of our youth.

An outrage that will, if history remains constant, result in another South Africa right here in America.

But, are we so misguided to think that by the achievement of massive intergration we might, by the very intimacy of our proximity with white America imbue them with a new set of moral values based on love, brotherhood, justice and righteousness.

Our very history and experiences have shown that the intimacy of our involvement has had just the opposite effect, of imbuing us with their values perpetuating among us generally negative values and increased individualism, selfishness, greed.

Also increased stress related illness, loss of race identity, massive drug addiction, alcoholism, a weakening of the fabric of family cohesiveness, the acceptance and glorification of so many negative images among black men, alarming rates of childhood pregnancies and single female headed households?

Where will it end? What will the end be? And for whom? Are we truly overcoming, or coming along just fine?

Michael Postlewaite