Baltimore Afro-American

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Black English

The announcement by the city school system this week that all nonstandard English will be banned from the classroom raises some interesting points.

For many people who came through the public school system during the 1950s and 1960s the revelation that nonstandard English was allowed in the schools as a means of expression is a surprise.

As recently as the late 1960s students were corrected verbally if they spoke incorrect English in the classroom in all but exceptional circumstances. Likewise their written work was corrected for grammar and spelling regardless of the class they were taking.

One is not truly educated until one can speak the native language and write it proficiently. Teachers were meticulous about their speech and careful about their written communication with students, parents and fellow educators.

Somewhere, somehow this attention to language became lost. Perhaps in attempts to communicate with students on their own level school officials began to communicate with students in their own manner.

A black person in this society must be bilingual to survive and prosper. He or she must be fluent in standard English which is the language of business and the professions, but he or she must also be capable of communicating on another level.

Most people switch back and forth between standard and non-standard English, but it is imperative that one have a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of standard English.

In the past, black teachers stressed to their students that they had to be twice as proficient as whites to make up for the handicap of racism in this country.

In a sense that fact is still true with the ongoing assaults on the anti-discrimination practices and enforcement agencies carried out by the current administration in Washington, D.C.

What black and other minority youths need is not less emphasis on language skills but more. They must be shown that there is a world outside of the comfortable one defined by their families and neighborhoods etc.

Not only must the demands on the students be increased, but also the demands on the teachers to elevate their levels of proficiency with the language.

Anyone who can not write and speak English correctly does not deserve the title educator, at least in the context of being a college trained and certified teacher.

It is about time the school system stopped shortchanging its pupils in the language skills area.

State treasurer

The job of state treasurer is a somewhat obscure one but it is a very powerful one. The job entails responsibility for accounting daily deposits, preparing checks and investing the state's surplus funds.

The office also administer's the state's insurance, renders quarterly reports, handles cash receipts and disbursements and is a member of various boards and commissions, the most important of which is the Board of Public Works. The treasure along with the comptroller and the governor runs the state when the General Assembly is out of session.

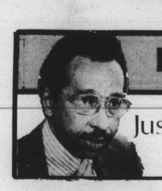
This is a most powerful and sensitive position and the occupant must be voted into office by both houses of the General Assembly. Del. John Douglas D-45th has expressed interest in the job and he brings with him impressive credentials. He is an acknowledged fiscal expert and has written legislation on how the state does business. He is respected by his peers in the General Assembly.

peers in the General Assembly.

The present treasurer William James expressed a desire to step down from the post in the recent past, but now appears to be changing his mind. James is respected and well known in the General Assembly and would no doubt be reelected to the post he has held for the last 12 years.

If James should decide to step down, his successor would have to be someone acceptable to the incoming administration since it intends to keep a tight rein on government. Another name that has been bandied about is that of former Sen. Harry MrGuirk. McGuirk is also well known in the Assembly and has ties to the incoming governor.

If the job shoud become vacant, John Douglass is the best person for the job. His qualifications stand tall and he is the type of fiscal watchdog the state could use in an oversight position.



Parren J. Mitchell

Justice: a study in hypocrisy

Recently, a highly publicized case involving a stock speculator who was banned from the securities business and ordered to forfeit $100 million in fines and illegal insider trading profits, made me think about how this system we call justice, in many cases, is a two-faced monster.

To illustrate, in the same week that the mass media was bringing the above case to the attention of the public, I received information from the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

This coalition of organiations' goal is to end racism on several fronts including the United States courts and prison system. The plea was for a letter to be sent to the Governor of Alabama to protest the persecuon of a young Black man who has been sentenced to die in Alabama's electric chair even though his conviction was based on violations of his constitutional right to legal counsel and due process.

According to the information I received, a 19-year old Black man named Johnny Imani Harris, while on his way to work, was arrested without a warrant in 1970.

After his photograph was distributed, he was subjected to a lineup, almost guaranteeing his identification as a suspect. Subsequently, he was charged with four robberies in the amounts of $11, $67, $90 and $205, and with the alleged rape of a white women.

Each of these charges in 1970 carried a maximum penalty of death.

Because his court-appointed lawyers never vistied him before the trial, no motions challenging Harris warrantless arrest, the improper lineup procedure, or the warrantless search of his home were filed.

These offenses violate the Fourth and Sixth Amendments of our Constitution, and any evidence — or identification — obtained therefrom would be effectively barred from trial upon proper motion.

Moreover, none of Harris' attorneys examined the medical report on the alleged rape victim, which stated there was no evidence of rape.

A few minutes before the trial began, Harris' attorneys counseled him to plead guilty because, (1) they were totally unprepared to defend him, (which amounts to a breach of Harris' Sixth Amendment right to have the "Assistance of Counsel for his defense" and (2) they felt that the court would take the white woman's word over Harris' regarding the rape and that Harris might get the death sentence if he didn't plead guilty.

As a result of his guilty plea, Harris received five consecutive life sentences and was sent to prison to serve out his time.

While in prison in 1974, Harris was charged with the murder of a prison guard, killed in a melee involving some 64 prison inmates and several prison guards. Although a former prisoner came forward with eyewitness testimony that Harris had not killed the guard, Harris was nonetheless convicted by an all-white jury, with no evidene whatsoever proving guilt, and sentenced to death.

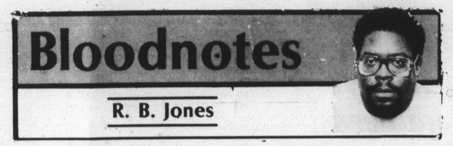
Now, contrast this case with the insider trading scandal currently in the news. In this case, probably the most famous and undoubtedly the most successful arbitrageur in the world admitting to being guilty of making illegal profits estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars in the financial securities industries in total disregard to federal law prohibiting such transactions.

As you know, in a corporate takeover bid, the company seeking to acquire another company (called the target company) makes a public announcement to the target company's stockholders that it is willing to buy their shares of stock for some price higher than the current market price (the tender offer).

An arbitrageur is a professional risk taker who purchases stock at market price from the target company once the takeover bid has been publicly announced. Profits are made from the difference in the market price and the higher price finally paid to stockholders when the takeover deal is completed sometime later.

A person with inside information regarding a takeover attempt can reap large benefits by trading in the shares of these target companies before the takeover bid is announced to the public. This activity was expressly prohibited by Congress with enactment of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Either there is something errant in my reasoning, or there is something inherently wrong with our judicial system. On the one hand, a white man admittedly guilty of felonious activity amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars gets a slap on the wrist and walks free, while a Black man is sentenced to death without any credible evidence proving his guilt. You be the judge.



Bloodnotes

R. B. Jones

(malls and department stores) to give our money to our former slavemasters.

As a people losing ground to other groups in society economically, it is insane for us to go out and bankrupt ourselves for the sake of one day. The Asian community's wealth is growing so rapidly in Baltimore that they are equal in wealth to the black community and will soon surpass us.

The black community may still have more cash flow but the businesses that dot the black community are dominated by Asian merchants. How many of them do you see in a frenzy, doing their Christmas shopping? They are building economic wealth, in many cases from our disposable income.

While we scour the retail junk piles, our black institutions, with the exceptions of our bars, hair-care places and churches, starve for financial support.

Our hospital is gone and our colleges are kept on starvation diets by the state. Our school system, and it is ours by virtue of its majority black population, does not have textbooks while we rush to exhaust bank accounts for the sake of one day.

Does this orgy of buying make our lives richer, marriages more secure, parents and children more loving? Of course they do not. All this buying does is reinforce the alienating concept that commodities equal relationships.

Rather than fall into the tinsel trap that capitalism has set for us, why not limit any Christmas purchases, if such things are necessary, to moderate items bought from a black business? With the leftover money that is saved, one can contribute to a needy black institution.

Instead of investing in capitalist manipulation of the emotions and the wallet, invest in institutions that will improve and perpetuate black life.

Holidays are supposed to mark significant events and if we as a people can back away from being programmed by the holidays and begin to develop programs for ourselves we will be well on our way to success.

Let's abolish Santa Claus and all the other hucksters from our lives.

Neglected black history

Last week, my class had the opportunity of being invited to my history professors' home for dinner. We were also shown a slide presentation concerning an historical look at significant churches in American History.

I am the only Black student in the class, and the issues we've dealt with have focused on Slavery. I must confess, I had many reservations about going to dinner with the great-great-grandchildren of slave-masters; however, I managed to go through with it.

When I arrived, there was a total of 20 people, consisting of husbands, wives, and single students. I was greeted with wide smiles (which I have always mistrusted). We all sat around, talking glibly about everything except what was on my mind.

I wanted to know: Why the heat was turned down so low? Why was the food so tasteless? Why didn't the ice tea have any sugar in it? Why was everything so cold and colorless? My surroundings made me uneasy!

I honestly tried to enjoy my meal, but the thought of how Blacks have been treated, and how we are presently treated by whites, made it difficult for me to enjoy my food or my company. After dinner, there was an extensive slide presentation, depicting many churches and their rich history. When the presentation was over, there was no one slide depicting anything about the Black Church. I was floored!

I had the audacity to ask my professor: "In your travels, were you unable to find any Black churches that have made significant contributions?" His reply: "I was not able to find that much in the way of Black churches, but I did have the chance to stand in the pulpit of the great Bethel Church in Philadelphia."

"Well," I said to myself, "he did not find that much because he didn't look that hard." So, I left the professors house feeling, once again, we're still being overlooked. But we must always make whites keenly aware that we are not as asleep as they think we are.

REV. LEON M. SHADE, SR.
WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Holiday jeer

Get out the lynching rope and the tar and feathers. Prepare the pronouncements of excommunication, but I don't care. I am still proposing a moratorium on this so-called holiday season.

Let's put away the deception and the ugly, corruptive rush to buy presents we can't afford for people we don't really like, It's becoming too much.

As someone who works downtown, I have already begun seeing the tension and the panic etched on people's faces as they rush around the retail district like shell-shocked soldiers forced out of their foxholes by the command to attack.

What is supposed to be a joyous season has become a grueling marathon with debt and disillusionment at the end. All the hysteria and panic for one day that only lasts for 24 hours just like all the rest.

The torture began Thursday with the illnamed Thanksgiving Day. If spirits do exist, I wonder what the ghosts of the Native Americans are feeling after they befriended the white intruders who came to their shores in the 1600s and later saw the very people they had helped to survive come out with arms to slaughter them, man, woman and child.

I wonder how they feel seeing the land that they loved and respected and held sacred poisoned with pollutants and defiled by entities like shopping malls.

It is apparent what the investors of Thanksgiving are grateful for, but what significance does it have for Indians and other people, I suppose they give thanks that any of them are left alive after living on a continent that contains millions of people with a genocidal culture.

I don't think the Native Americans who were the murder victims of the Pilgrims share in any fondness for the day that symbolizes treachery to them.

Christmas is another issue all together. In America, no matter how oppressed a person was, he or she was always supposed to celebrate Christmas.

During slavery, Christmas was always the best time of the year for the slaves. According to Frederick Douglass' final autobiography, "The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass" the slaves had an entire week off from Christmas to New Year's Day, were allowed to have liquor and they all received small gifts from the master and had cakes and other baked goods that they were denied on their usual sparse diet.

It was a time of festivity and parties. For a while they enjoyed life and leisure, a rare commodity for a slave. This tradition carried over in the black community.

Christmas is still a festive time of parties and socializing. The difference now is that instead of slaves going to the big house to receive a gift from the slavemaster, now we go to big-houses

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.

Samuel L. Banks

Norfolk schools' retreat

The recent refusal of the United States Supreme Court to consider the appeal of the NAACP in the Norfolk, Virginia school case has fateful, disquieting and malodorous implications for 40 million Black Americans.

The Norfolk City Public Schools, for the time being, will be permitted to end busing in 10 elementary schools and return black students to largely black neighborhood schools.

The Herculean and sacrificial efforts that black Norfolkians have made, over three (3) decades, for high quality desegregated education have been dashed by the irrational, self-serving and Reactionary Action of the Norfolk School Board.

It is patently and incontrovertibly clear that the educational palliatives and tranquilizers offered Norfolk's Black community will do little to repair the racial breach and sense of distrust and betrayal which have been exacerbated by the school board's ignominious retreat from equal educational opportunity for all students.

The decision of Dr. Gene Carter, Norfolk's first Black school superintendent, to offer multicultural educational programs, field trips and interracial school assemblies will do little to abate the educational and psychological harm inflicted on Black children in forcing them to return to their segregated schools and neighborhoods.

In their former desegregated schools, Black and white students were able to learn together in a pluralistic setting and acquire invaluable lessons in terms of interracial understanding, respect and cooperation.

Even more tragic, given the orderly and effective movement of desegregation, following a turbulent era in 1959 when Norfolk closed its schools rather than to obey the law of the land, NO RATIONAL, LOGICAL, TRUTHFUL AND BELIEVABLE REASON HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE NORFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD, CHAIRED BY ATTORNEY THOMAS JOHNSON, AND DR. GENE CARTER, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, FOR RETURNING THE BLACK STUDENTS BACK TO THEIR RIGIDLY SEGREGATED AND POOR NEIGHBORHOODS.

It is demonstrably clear, in view of past socio-economic deprivations and the poverty of their parents, that they have been programmed for failure.

It, too, must be understood that desegregated schooling cannot be achieved in the Norfolk Public Schools, as is true of most of the 15,000 school districts in our nation, if the vehicle of busing is not utilized.

Housing patterns in Norfolk, as is true in Baltimore and throughout much of our nation, are highly segregated. The reluctance, if not downright hostility of the Reagan administration, to enforce the 1968 Fair Housing Act has resulted in increased racial isolation and ethnic-racial sequestration throughout the United States.

The most painful, perplexing and ominous aspect of the Norfolk school case is that the three (3) Black members of the seven (7) member school board supported the white majority in returning the Black elementary students to SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

This point, to be sure, in spite of the brilliance and adroitness of the legal arguments of Richmond attorney and city councilman Henry Marsh in his legal arguments before federal district and appellate courts, was persuasive and dominant for the White majority.

It is to the immense and inspirational credit of Norfolk's Black community that they have resolved to work in solidarity to undo a lamentable and grievous educational wrong inflicted on their children by the school board and white municipal leadership.

Norfolk's Black leadership led by the Norfolk Branch, NAACP, Citizens for Qaulity Education, the Norfolk Journal and Guide, and civic and religious groups understands full well that the Norfolk school decision to RETURN SELECTED ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, PRIMARILY FROM LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS, IS A POLITICAL DECISION AND NOT AN EDUCATIONAL DECISION.

Black Norfolkians are to be commended in their collective resolve and determination to guarantee their children and posterity EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

How ironic and searing it is that the 36,000 students, a majority of whom are Black, in the Norfolk City Public Schools with its first Black Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gene Carter, three (3) Black members on the seven (7) member city council and a Black population of 35 percent are experiencing a palpable and flagrant return to segregated and unequal education.

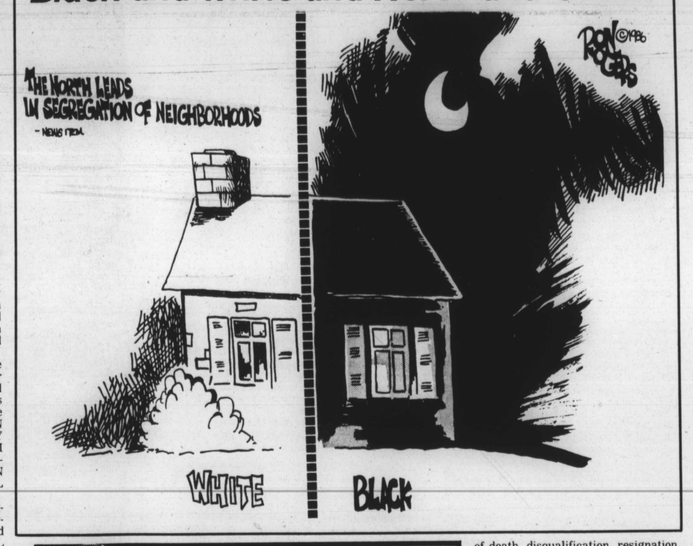
The paramount issue, as I have often indicated in this column, is not that Black youngsters are not able to learn in all-Black or predominantly Black school settings, but that the requisite and essential human and monetary resources will not obtain in the long run. This historical record in Norfolk and elsewhere in our nation provides copious and graphic evidence of this fact.

Finally, the Norfolk school case, with the assistance of the Reagan administration, provides tangible evidence of a blatant effort to retrench, retard and, in time, eliminate the movement toward equity and excellence for all in our nation's public schools. The efforts, too, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is also reflective of retreat on equal educational opportunity.

As Black citizens we must be unyielding and unwavering in our collective efforts to resist, by every moral, political and legal means at our disposal, a return to SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL EDUCATION.

We have, indeed, come too far to turn back in our historic quest, past and present, for socio-economic justice and educational equality and opportunity.

Black and white and North and South



Max Johnson

Political Viewpoint

While speculations mount over Councilman Michael Mitchell's possible successor to his 4th District City Council post, there arises again attention toward his newly won 39th District State Senate seat.

Prompting this have been public statements the past weekend reporting the senator-elect to be suffering from a cardiac condition, and requiring an extended period of rest.

This revelation was attributed to his brother, Dr. Keiffer Mitchell, in seeking court delays of alleged pending civil cases filed earlier against the councilman. Reportedly, he hasn't attended Council meetings since September.

Questions, then: What about the councilman's Senate seat? Will he accept it, or reject it? Will he really resign from the Council; leaving that seat to be filled by somebody else?

Directly after election to the Senate earlier this month, rumors were he would step down and turn the post over to his older brother, out-going Sen. Clarence Mitchell 3rd. Clarence has held the same Senate seat for years, but ran unsuccessfully this year for 7th D. Congress.

These and still later rumors have been labeled by associates of both as unfounded. Clarence, however, has indicated interest, and has stated that if his constituents asked him he would seek the post. So, now the rumors are stronger than ever.

There are, however, legal avenues of questioning, all fit and proper and justifiable. Michael is still councilman, and will be until municipal elections next year, unless he resigns first. Clarence is still state senator, and will be until oath of office ceremonies Jan. 14. Constituents of both are voters and residents of Baltimore's 39th District.

Indicative answers may or may not be forthcoming Dec. 8, when the General Assembly meets for formal organization of Senate and House officials, floor leaders, committee chairmen, and so forth.

Michael need not show up for this session. As a freshman senator and being a nephew of Congressman Parren Mitchell, he's not going to get anything of note out of the Schaefer-controlled Senate anyway. Even if he did show up, nothing decisive would be proven.

Next comes official oath of office ceremonies in mid-January. Here again, Michael's absence shouldn't necessarily prove anything. He can point to publicly noted health requirements, and be sworn in later.

Article 3, Section 13, of the Marylnd Constitution provides that an elected Assembly representative may "in case of death, disqualification, resignation, refusal to act, expulsion" and so on be replaced by appointment of the governor.

The governor is to be advised in writing within 30 days of the vacancy by the State Central Committee affected, along with a replacement nominee. The governor is required to respond within 15 days.

If the Central Committee makes no nomination within 30 days of the vacancy, the governor can name his own replacement from within the political boundaries of the vacated seat.

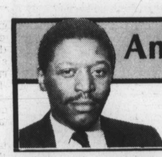
All of this simply means in the Michael case at point, the ultimate decision is his own. He can stay in the council, and virtually name his Senate replacement. Or, he can go to the Senate, almost certainly have his council nominee honored. He is a veteran member of that body.

There may, however, be a considered determining factor surfacing as a result of Michael's publicized health problem.

The Assembly, especially at turn of an in-coming new administration, is a hurried state of confusion. Morning committee meetings, afternoon sessions, later delegation meetings are tiresome, nerve-racking chores.

The city council, by contrast, is usually an easy-going, homey, body. Nobody rushes to do anything. Only time there may be disturbance to the serene atmosphere is when a councilman has a special audience of his constituents.

Whatever the finalizing decision of Senator-elect Michael Mitchell, it is book-making certain to please the 39th and 4th Districts voters. He and brother out-going Sen. Clarence Mitchell 3rd, have repeatedly been re-elected over the years.



Anthony Armstrong

Athena and other myths

(The writer is Assistant to the President of the Baltimore City Council. This is the first of three articles examining the major candiates for Mayor of Baltimore City in 1987.)

We were amazed four years ago when out of nowhere, came the latest "great hope." This one was somewhat different because great hopes are white. This one is black but, nevertheless, still some whites' great hope. The arrival only four years ago, and time is very important in politics, reminds me of another politician who, similarly, burst onto the scene, like a male Athena.

You remember Athena, she is the Greek goddess who sprang from her father, Zeus', forehead, born already an adult, and fully clothed and fully armed. That politician was one James Earl (Jimmy) Carter. He went on to have one of the most diastrous presidences in the history of America.

The new Athena is a major contender for mayor Baltimore City in 1987. He too appeared on the political scene just about four years ago; and, like a male Athena, he was fully clothed and fully armed. It's a little bit like the reverse of the story of Columbus and his men. They felt they would fall off the edge of the Earth.

This contender on the other hand, appears to have appeared out of nowhere, like a person falling onto Baltimore from some outer edge. Maybe some place like Boston, or New Haven, or England. Other than Harvard, Yale, Rhodes Scholar (yall remember good ole Cecil Rhodes, the British financier and colonialist who subjugated millions of black people in Southern Africa), no one knows where this latest deity is from, at least politically.

We know of his paper credentials, all hard won at the seat of a book. We know he seems to be a nice enough chap; I mean he talks alright, though a bit whimpishly. He's so nice that, what's the phrase, "butter won't melt in his mouth."

Mr. Cater was a nice guy too; and on top of that he had been governor of Georgia, and a long time player in that state's politics. Yet, Mr. Carter had one very glaring problem; he simply didn't know what he was doing, because he hadn't had the experience mixed with the temperament that he needed to find out what he had to do.

His was not a problem of will, but a problem of experience. As the result, America chewed him up and spit him out. The rest of the world wasn't too kind either. We knew Mr. Carter's credentials too; and we also knew that just being a nice guy with parchment aged with a dash of experience was not enough.

Ancient and modern comparisons are good, but real life is better. The real deal in 1987's race for mayor of Baltimore boils down to two things: where have the aspirants been, in terms of their preparation for the real life responsibilities of managing a major city, and what do those experiences portend for the future?

Everyone knows the saga of Clarence H. (for Henry) "Du" Burns; his somebody to SOMEBODY story, and his record of accomplishments are there for all to see. Yet, as much as we've heard about the other guy we really know very little about him. So, again I ask, where did this latest great hope spring from, politically speaking?

One thing is clear in politics; wherever you spring from is where you go back to. We heard during his first race in 1982, that "Ron Shapiro opened his rolodexs and raised money for the 82 race.

Interestingly, another guy, Isaac Newton, was the first to understand that an apple never fails far from the tree — or is it rolodexs? Something else is also clear. That is the fact that much of the Baltimore press has also fallen off their typewriters, and into love with this mayorial contender.

In politics there is this thing called a honeymoon with the press. It means that for a time, at least, the press won't be too critical of a new office holder. It's kind of an unwritten rule, a courtesy of sorts, to give a new person the time to get into the job before the press begins to cut him to shreds.

Our subject must have made a great marriage with the press, because after four years not only does the marriage continue, but the honeymoon never ended. So, if you read the papers or watch the T.V. you get the idea that not only did he arrive fully clothed and fully armed (with Mr. Shapiro's rolodexs); he also arrived with the press for a wife.

It has been a decidely happy honeymoon, however; the marriage is built on something not too far from dishonest.

Here's an Athena who occupies one of the most sensitive jobs in town; and after four whole years and two races we're still only reading articles about the person and not about the job he's doing. What we ought to be reading is substance about the quality of the job the young man is doing, as the city's lawyer.

If you were to ask many people who should know (judges and attorneys) they would tell you. "not particularly well." Truth and myths never do square well, however.

Fact is, the [illegible] we haven't read more sub[illegible] for his [illegible] great hope, is that this p[illegible] not measued up to what we want to believe about someone with so much potential. Nothing new about this; the press often attemps and succeeds at picking our leaders for us.

Yet, there are some hard questions about the ability of this contender to be mayor of Baltimore City anytime soon. There's nothing new about graduates of fine schools. There is also nothing new about that fact that even the best education is still found in experience. On that count alone this candidate ought to be responsible enough to tell those who are egging him on that he is not ready to be mayor of Baltimore, or any other city.

Myths are great reading at night by the fire. Myths in real life, however, cause people real mental problems someone begins to tell you a myth about your ability or power, and you begin to believe them. One can quickly lose sight of reality under the pressures of "you're great, you're great, you're great." Athena understood she was just a myth; I hope others understand that too.

Television and society

American television has — in short time, historically speaking — brought immense changes, but unfortunately for our society many changes are not good. Every night one may watch many murders and assaults, not only on the news but on many shows.

Americans have, in many cases, become dehumanized by the viewing of many shows depicting murder and intentional killings, some brutal, some not so brutal.

Our television has led a generation and more of young people to believe that violence, killing and gun play are a part of life. Nightly on many shows victims are shot two, three, four times, only to walk away as good as new. Victims on TV shows are clubbed, kicked, knifed, and sometimes still live.

The problem is that young minds are imprinted with these brutal and hideous ideas shown nightly. Many people come to believe that they, too, can engage in violence, as on television, and survive.

Nightly, viewers watch cars driven at speeds greater than possible; viewers [illegible] great collisions that would kill or [illegible] for life—only to see their hero [illegible] way. Many of the brutal ideas and [illegible] created on television are tried out by viewers with devastating results to themselves and to many innocent people.

Television has created a fantasy world of evil, in some cases, with few repercussions to the characters on the shows. However, when many of these violent escapades of fantasy are carried out by real persons, great tragedies occur and our entire society suffers. We have in many ways become like the Romans of antiquity, marveling in death, violence, and evil.

I hope that Americans will begin to realize that shows depicting violence can in time signal the destruction of the American civilization, now over 200 years old. Just as in ancient Rome the daily spectacles of violence and death in the Roman coliseum made many Roman uncaring, this could in many ways occur in this land — the home of the free and brave.

We all have a responsibility to shield and teach our youngsters to turn from television shows depicting brutal killings and violence. Make no mistake about it; Television violence leave[illegible] lasting impressions on many [illegible]ericans, and these [illegible] best interest [illegible] from stations [illegible] and perh[illegible] the messa[illegible]

JOHN A. MICKLOS

NOV 1986