Baltimore Afro-American

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Bank machine robberies

With every rose comes a thorn and with every advance in convenience and technology comes a disadvantage. When automatic bank machines came into existence they were hailed for their convenience.

Now persons with money in their accounts have access to at least a part of it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This access makes life easier, but it has also made life more dangerous.

Numerous robberies have occurred in the last two years at automatic teller machines and two people have been murdered either at the machine or directly after they have left the machine for the ready cash they had on hand.

Although the bulk of the robberies have occurred in areas outside the city, a number have taken place near a black section of Baltimore County, that does not mean that people who use such machines in the city have any kind of exemption.

The ones in the city tend to be less isolated and better lit. Persons using the machines can see better who is nearby. Vigilance is the key when using the machines.

The AFRO is urging its readers to exercise extreme caution in using the machines during the holiday shopping season. December and January of last year saw an increase in bank machine robberies and this year will most likely not be different. Christmas time tragically, always brings an increase in crime.

If our readers must use the machines we urge that they use them during daylight, check the area carefully and try not to go alone, especially at night.

Haysbert for mayor?

We hate to blow our own horn, but the scenario outlined by prospective mayoral candidate Raymond V. Haysbert to a local daily paper this week was run in the AFRO during the heat of the 7th District Democratic Congressional Primary this past Summer.

The Parks Sausage executive made his remarks during an interview with one of our columnists about his support for Democratic candidate Kweisi Mfume when Haysbert had supposedly switched parties during the 1984 presidential campaign.

The scenario that Haysbert outlined last summer, a bitter divisive primary between Kurt Schmoke and Clarence DuBurns that splits the black vote and allows Robert Embry to win the Democratic primary, is shaping up somewhat the way he predicted. Those three Democrats are almost certain to enter the race.

The second part of the scenario which featured Haysbert as the GOP standard bearer and the only black candidate left in the race is somewhat nebulous at this point.

Haysbert would be an attractive candidate to the beleagured city GOP. He has broad contacts in the business and political communities and he does not carry the baggage of being a perennial loser.

The Achilles Heel in Haysbert's scenario is the fact that the black vote in Baltimore has yet to be split evenly between two black citywide candidates thus allowing a white candidate to slip through the middle.

With the increasing sophistication of the black electorate in Baltimore, the likelihood of an even split between Burns and Schmoke is unlikely. The desire for an elected black mayor is strong in this city especially in light of the fact that Baltimore is the only majority black major city with a white mayor.

Haysbert has another problem and that is carving some kind of public image for himself. A run by him on the GOP side will give him more time to get his name recognition elevated, but he still faces a very uphill battle to become mayor and valuable time is rapidly running out.

Marching orders

The General Assembly got a preview of the Schaefer governorship this week and in no uncertain terms he let the incoming legislators know that he expects things to be done at his pace and to his liking or he would come after them.

Schaefer has set some of the more pressing priorities of his administration in terms of a gasoline tax increase, change in the school funding formula that will lead to increased funding for education, insurance reform that will lessen the financial burden on doctors, and tax reform.

Schaefer has pledged to be a hands-on governor and one who will feel no hesitation in injecting himself into General Assembly business. Leadership can be a good thing, but so is utilization of the thoughts and ideas from different perspectives.

The General Assembly can sometimes be a chaotic and ineffective body as it can sometimes be a place where statesmanship, compromise and a sense of what is good for the state prevails. It needs direction from the executive branch of government, but it does not need a king ruling by the concept of divine right.

Hopefully a happy medium will be found in Annapolis in the next few months.

State tax recommendations

Although the fallout from the massive changes in the federal tax laws has not been completely sifted, State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein has recommended that the state give Maryland taxpayers some relief on their 1987 taxes due to a projected windfall in state revenue.

Goldstein said that the tax relief should be given for one year because the full impact of federal tax policies have not been studied and this should be done before permanent state tax reform takes place.

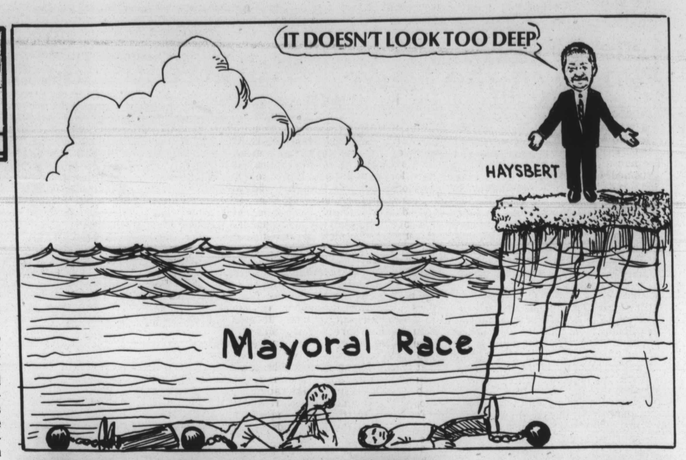
This is prudent policy, but it is also one that grants the taxpayers a break, no matter how fleeting, in light of state windfalls. Goldstein has issued a list of other suggestions that he hopes will be acted upon by the governor and the General Assembly.

The recommendations are the following:

1. Increase the current $800 personal exemption.
2. Make the standard deduction a flat amount and increase it above the current 13% of adjusted gross income and current maximum of $1,500 for an individual and $3,000 for a married couple.
3. Reinstate the extra exemption for taxpayers 65 and over.
4. Reinstate the extra exemption for blind taxpayers.
5. Reinstate the exemption for dependent taxpayers who are claimed on someone else's return.
6. Reduce the corporation income tax to bring it more nearly into line with neighboring jurisdictions.

Hopefully these recommendations will enable Maryland's income tax to be more progressive without being advantageous aspects of federal tax law.

Adequate revenue is vital if Maryland is to remain competitive with other states.



Bloodnotes

R. B. Jones

Truth and consequences

Every Sunday when I was growing up people came over for Sunday dinner. Perhaps my fading memory is exaggerating and it was not every Sunday, but it seemed that way to me.

Because my uncle and aunt were elderly people the company we would have on Sunday usually consisted of elderly people who told the most fascinating stories at the dinner table.

They would tell tales of the old South; the friends and family and good times they had when white people were not intruding in their lives. It was a world that I could never know because my forays into the South occurred during the heyday of the civil rights movement and the tension was high and a wind of change was stirring up southern society before it.

I learned to listen to older people because they were living history that far surpassed the dry textbooks I would later encounter. One such person was Victor Parks, a neighbor for many years. He was light enough to pass for white so he often heard white people speak in an unguarded manner.

He would often tell me, "I ain't prejudiced against nobody, but ain't a but a handful of white people are any good. Most of them don't want to have anything to do with you and then there are some who will grin in your face and stab you in the back."

He came to the latter conclusion in 1968 when he heard his "liberal" boss Bethlehem Steel, speaking out of the earshot of any the black employees, so he thought, gleefully telling a fellow white employee that Martin Luther King should have been shot down long before he finally was that past Friday.

Mr. Parks would say "The truth ain't in these people."

If he were alive today he would certainly feel that his observation was proved correct. If he could watch the parade of pathetic, self-deluded power brokers of the Reagan Administration hiding behind the Fifth Amendment and suffering sudden memory losses when confronted with their violation of U.S. law and their own stated policies, he would have felt vindicated.

Was it only five years ago that the Reagan Administration swaggered into Washington with threats to Third World peoples in one hand and soap bubble promises in the other for the Americans who thought that wishing and voting made it so?

They were going to perform economic miracles that defied simple mathematics. You can't cut revenue and increase expenditures and have a balanced budget when you start in the red.

They were going to roll back the tide of revolution that had swept over Nicaragua, Grenada, Iran and elswhere. They were going to intimidate the Soviets with a massive arms buildup and make America stand tall again.

Their definition of standing tall is lying to elected officials and running dirty little wars by proxy. They don't have the backbone to fight their own battles, Vietnam taught the pain that a determined and well organized Third World revolutionary army can inflict so they have settled on mercenaries as the way to roll back revolution.

The Roman Empire became dependent on mercenaries in its declining days and it suffered a succession of weak and corrupt emperors who barely lasted long enough to be entered on the official state records.

The same fate is befalling the American Empire. No president has served two terms unscathed since Dwight Eisenhower (1952-1960). They have fallen to assassination, scandal and the weight of a huge moral and military disaster. Jimmy Carter was chased from office because he mirrored the real America.

His face reflected limited power, a desperate need to establish moral authority and a realization that America was no longer that Colossus who could make the world tremble singlehandedly. Carter represented an America that must live with diminished power and the inhabitants of the shriveled giant rejected him for the comforting illusions of B-grade Reagan movies.

The truth ain't in them so they rejected it when faced by it.

The unravelling of the Reagan presidency is a bitter pill for many to swallow. Black people warned them from the very beginning that something was terribly wrong with the man but nobody wanted to listen.

His pronouncements on terrorism was as stirring as a John Wayne speech a split second before he gunned down the bad guys. People of the right believed in the gunslinger in the White House even when he allowed the proud Marines to be murdered in their Beirut barracks in a shameful state of unpreparedness.

They still cheered him when he invaded one of the smallest countries in the world to salve their pride. Once mighty America feasted on rival world powers, now it was reduced to feasting on ant-sized Grenada for ego satisfaction. They cheered him even more when he bombed Libya and killed Khadafi's daughter. Of course they lied and said that they were not trying to kill the Libyan leader by bombing his residential quarters.

At this same time the rumor of a hit squad in this country brought up concrete barricades around The White House. Of course Libya is immoral enough to try to kill our leader but this country would never do such a thing, the Reaganites declared.

The truth ain't in them. Now they are scrambling around trying to cover up their violation of laws prohibiting arms sales to Iran and their violation of laws against sending military aid to the Reagan-manufactured contras in Nicaragua.

They are also trying to cover up their immoral incompetence as well. Did they really think they could win Iran's friendship with a few million dollars worth of arms after the Iranian people had to suffer the presence of the U.S. installed and maintained tyrant Shah Palaui for 25 years?

The Shah's agents murdered and tortured millions of Iranian people with the collusion of the U.S. government. Did they really think that some arms would erase 25 years of hatred?

They must have thought they were dealing with the NAACP or some other group that believes in reconciliation with one's sworn enemy. The Iranian people are revolutionaries and their scars run very deep.

They know the value of U.S. rhetoric about democracy. The people of Iran, Nicaragua, Mozambique and El Salvador know that the truth ain't in them. When will we learn?

Anthony Armstrong

All is fair

In love, war, and I'll add politics, I guess all is fair. That does not, however, mean that all is right or sensible.

In all fairness, I should tell you readers that I work for the President of the Baltimore City Council and Mayor-Designate, Clarence H. "Du" Burns; and have worked for him some five years.

So, from a pragmatic point of view you could readily expect my position to be strongly in favor of Burns, and you would be correct. I am also a journalist with the standard bearer news organ of our community; and as such, I have a commitment to myself, the AFRO, and, most importantly, to you, the reader, to comment on our times in as honest and unbiased way as is humanly possible.

I know how I would like things to be, but in the political world where I live and work I must deal with things as they are. For, if anything, politics is the art, science, and business of harsh reality.

It must be that way because the unlimited desires of competing interest collide, with great intensity, with the very limited resources of our time. These collisions are especially wrenching at the local level because it is here, in the fishbowl of local politics, that most government decisions have their immediate impact.

In such a tug-of-war world reality is the only common denominator possible. Were it not this way, governments, and societies as a whole, could not exist with even the most minimal degrees of order. Anything less would create anarchy, a state in which no one's interest could be served at any level — save those of the people who would destroy civility and all that it means for our citizens.

Now for things as they are! I hear people say, "Du Burns deserves to be mayor." I say baloney; no one "deserves" anything in the world of political competition.

I hear, also, that "Du" has paid his dues. All of us pay some dues in life; if we don't, life gives us nothing back, and as one great ancient warrior put it, "one gets no credit for hearing if he has ears and no credit for seeing if he has eyes."

It's, then, the extra that we do with our lives, particularly in service to others, that earns us special accolades. A politician's record is his report card of what he's done. That record must stand on its own, and be judged positively or negatively by the voting public.

Example: if you're buying a stock on the New York Stock Exchange you would make that purchase based on the future prospects of the stock. It's entirely different, however, in the case of political selections.

In politics one would not look at future prospects, or what some politician says he's going to do in the future. Instead, one judges a politician based on what that politician has already done in the past. So, if any politician has paid any dues, the results ought to show in what he got back, in terms of political successes, for his people.

People are fond of saying that the announced opposition, "ought to wait." I agree with those people, but not for the same reason most of them take such a position. For, most such sentiments are grounded in martyrdom. The feeling is, "Kurt ought to wait because he is still relatively young and "Du" is an older man who ought to be given his chance in the Sun."

Nonsense, people shouldn't hold anyone's youth and inexperience against them (Kurt couldn't control when he would be born); and Americans have long been prepared to give capable, experienced people great responsibility, even if they are still very young.

No, I'm afraid politics doesn't operate in the kind fashion some of us think it ought to. Remember, as I've said before, politics is not the business of what ought to be; it is the business of what is.

Fact is, the one reason I'm for "Du" Burns (and I told all of you I work for the man) is that he is the best man for the job of Mayor of Baltimore, at this time. My reasons have nothing to do with what we ought to do, because that kind of thinking is so much horse hockey

Continued on page 5

Letters to the Editor:

Youth and punishment

It was Saturday, early October, 1986. The TV exhibited a program called "Square Off." There appeared four participants, photogenic, exquisitely groomed, obviously of the upper echelon, and they were compelling in demeanor.

The subject came across as "Juveniles, Their Crime and Punishment." I heard a call for the extreme penalty as the only justice to be meted out! A blood bath? As it turned out the cry came from highly trained men, one of whom was a noted educator. Jehosophat!

There was a woman there desperately trying to press for justice seasoned with mercy. She was drummed out, and principally by the educator. Jehosophat!

I have been waiting for a public outcry against this program. I am talking about the morality of the issue. Does anyone see the danger of this "easy" way out.

As an educator myself (and one who was known in her day, also) I was shocked, and dismayed. So I must respond.

Let us highlight the educator. The others do not matter, for present purposes. His name is Boyse Mosley and he has earned note for his educational pronouncements and stands unique among those of our profession. I have not always agreed with him; and now I totally disagree, in my outrage. This man has great qualities, but to be managed.

Of course youth is turned loose, out of control, and its conduct demands adjustments. Youth by its behavior is crying out for help to escape the quagmire it has been pushed into not by itself alone, but by a society too long permissive, too long quiescent, but which now shoves all responsibility onto youth and yells "off with their heads."

This will not do! Not today. The problems are many and the problems are complex. If Boyse Mosley had come up in this society, he would perhaps, not have done so well. I would not have. The kids today face everything that I did not.

Let us not offend our own judgements by endeavoring to wink at what we really know; and I shall not go through the tedium of a chronicle of problems engulfing society's own youth.

Mosley is an educator and it is encumbent upon him to know the challenges to which I allude. He is well informed on the extrinsic to these problems. Youth does not need an educator who responds to it viscerally but one with informed, compassionate reasoning. Mosley's punishment theory is not an answer; it is a curative.

It is not even an alloy. Mosley could do much. He is satorially correct. His haberdashery is superb. His habiliment alone entitles him to the centre fold of "Fortune" — with an added ingredient, he could Pied Piper the kids up the mountain side.

The problem is not one for black or white or yellow. It is universal. The home has failed. The legislature has failed. The church is not heeded. Society spurns the child. Child abuse is rampant. Visit the courts and you will see blind justice, little compassion.

It is prudent to put a stop to this foolishness. This, Madeline Murphy tried to say but was trampled. We must not destroy the lives of our kids, but give them new-birth. The schools have to do it. There is no one else. Educators are trained; the only ones who are trained, to habilitate, to develop life. It is criminal to seek out an escape hatch!

LENA K. LEE
Former Legislator and Educator

The value of life

Last Wednesday, I had the occasion to preach at the noon-day service at St. James United Methodist Church. I chose for a theme, 'The Value of Human Life.' An excerpt from the sermon follows:

"Each life is sacred; each in its individuality and purpose. This sacredness is not based upon any outward attainment or achievement, but rests in the reality that we all are created in the image of God."

But the wooden words I spoke at noon, became flesh as I witnessed the 6 o'clock news that same day. A fire had engulfed the home of a family in East Baltimore, where 10-13 persons, including children, lived.

Amid the smoke and flames, a young mother bravely withstood the danger of losing her life to save her children. As I watched the breathtaking scene unfold, a cameraman had caught pictures of a firefighter, descending a ladder with a limp, listless, almost lifeless baby in his arms.

But with every step he took he breathed into that baby the very breath of life. In a real sense, this act was miraculous.

I thought to myself how so very precious that baby's life was. And with each breath that that firefighter gave to the child, he was literally giving the gift of life. There is indeed no greater love than this.

And during this Christmas season, what a priceless gift to give!

REV. LEON M. SHADE, SR.
Wesley Theological Seminary

Examine the motives

I am an English teacher within the Baltimore City Public School System. I received my education and training from the School Sisters of Notre Dame in St. Louis, MO. As a first generation descendent from Yugoslavia, I also speak two languages. I have been and am presently engaged in the area of public relations in which I address various issues both in writing and speaking.

I believe the time has come for the system and society to first hold themselves accountable. It is also time for the system to insist that parents become accountable for their children!

Teachers are not the panacea for all the ills man has brought upon himself. It cannot serve a purpose, realistically, to therefore continue to attack teachers because in so doing the system, society and parents attack themselves first. Like a boomerang, attack eventually returns to its original source. Time will testify to this as history so repeatedly confirms.

As teachers, we merely reflect the inadequacies of a system which has consistently demonstrated no sense of compassion and care for its students and its teachers. We also reflect a society in turmoil and confusion, a society which has failed to address its own problems adequately!

The high drop out rate, low test scores and the loss of many good teachers is more reflective of the system, parents and society to appropriately address and resolve their own dilemma!

We, as teachers, have followed the dictums of others regarding the "what and how" of instructing. We have never been allowed, collectively, the dignity of addressing the quality of materials used, nor the manner of approach to utilize in instructing our students.

Those decisions have always been made at the higher levels with only a select group of teachers. As Marat Sade stated: "Without certain basic changes, everything we do must, of necessity, fail."

In the stillness of a few brief seconds which pierced the heart of a nation, already so shattered, one simple and ordinary New Hampshire teacher taught us the most beautiful lessons of life; lessons on enthusiasm, dreams, values, courage, hope and love. It was what she most wanted from life and so should we ourselves.

She taught us about human values and humanity. The profound silence of her last classroom spoke more loudly than any words she might have said.

Her mission was dedicated to the educating of students. Let us, collectively, forward this same message of humanity to our students.

ANTOINETTE SKYE

Frostburg alumni protest

The Black Alumni Association of Frostburg State College is appalled that a state educational institution as fine as Frostburg State College, Frostburg, Maryland, would resort to dismantling the office of Minority Affairs and the alleged promotion of Mrs. Pansye Atkinson.

We have written letters to the president of Frostburg State College in protest of the abolishment of the Minority Affairs Office. We made a statement of our discontentment with the recent change to the Maryland State Universities and Colleges Board of Trustees when they met at Frostburg State College in September 1986.

We also submitted a formal statement demanding action to the Board of Trustees at the private and the public meeting on November 20, 1986 at Towson State University.

We have benefited from the base of support, cooperation, and unquestionable concern of the Minority Affairs Office for the welfare of black students on a predominately white campus. We strongly believe that the Minority Affairs Office should be restored to its former status.

AMANDA BOSKENT

Blacks and light and energy

There has been a lot of information published in the 1980's on the subject of light and the effect it has on our general well being.

The facts are presented for the general population but it seems like special attention should be given to the more pigmented members in our society because we have more at stake if our light needs are not met.

When you consider the range of disorders that are associated with light deprivation-depression, seasonal affected disorder- S.A.D., alcoholism just to mention a few, you can see correlations made to areas of the country that have strong contrast in daylight time seasonally and poor mental health.

Researchers point to the hormone M.S.H. - melatonin stimulus hormone as the compound secreted by the pineal gland located in the brain as a major factor related to mental health imbalances.

Light is the energy stimulus that enters the eye and regulates the M.S.H. level. The more light the lower the level, the less light the higher the level.

Light and the physiological responses that are created in the human body is a subject that needs more attention placed on it from the black American point of interest.

Considering that the human species is still evolving and the bio-geography of the black American has been altered over the course of 300 years, studies are needed to trace biological succession from indigenous environments to new environments in higher latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere.

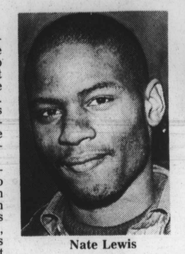
Light quality and quantity are proven to be factors in our general health. We need to think of light as an energy form that interacts with our whole being.

This is a subject for 21st century thinkers because light has far reaching affects. Who knows, racism could be a physiological response and maybe since we are light beings E=mc2 can apply to people, too.

SHARON UMPHERY

-AFRO SURVEY-

What would you like to get for Christmas?



Nate Lewis

Pam Bourne

Andy Shaw

Stephanie Hill

This week the question to the man and woman on the street was, what would you like for Christmas?

Nate Lewis, 20, bricklayer, said "I would like a new set of tools for Christmas. I'm a bricklayer and new tools for Christmas would be nice.

* * *

Pam Bourne, 28, unemployed, said "I would like to get a house. I need a place to stay and I'm tired of living in an apartment."

* * *

Andy Shaw, 44, Social Security worker, said, "I would like a new car for Christmas. I've never had a new car before; always a used one. And I think it's time for a new one."

* * *

Stephanie Hill, 19, hair stylist, said "I would like a new car. I've never had one and I would like to get a new one.

* * *

Stephanie McIntosh, 23, hair stylist, said, "I would like to get a new car because I need transportation. I've never had a car and if someone gave me one, I would take it."

James Anderson, 43, MTA operator, said, "More money. Money to pay the rent, utilities, cost of living is high. More jobs and more money."

* * *

Denise Davis, 34, nurse's aide, said, "I would like more money. I can always use more of that. A basket full of money. I need it to pay bills and to save."

* * *

James Cloude, 7, student, said "A Transformer, that's my favorite. I would love a Transformer.

Stephanie McIntosh

James Anderson

Denise Davis

Jamal Cloude

Max Johnson

Political Viewpoint

The repeated "tight ship" proclamation of Donald Schaefer in respect to his upcoming governorship surfaced again this week, in two separate but actually related revelations — one open, the other strongly indicative.

The open one, of course, was Schaefer's very stern message to General Assembly members taking seats in mid-January. The other came indirectly in a "feeling out" proposal to further protect his firm hold on to the operation of Baltimore's mayoral office, against whatever his possible losing realizations.

The latter was the Democrats' Raymond Haysbert's declaration that he is seriously considering turning Republican and running for mayor here in next year's municipal elections.

From any angle, this must surface as a Schaefer-protection hold on City Hall, more comes on this shortly.

First, Schaefer's strong-arm message to the Assembly, a goodly number of whom are wining faces, wasn't totally unexpected. Those who have known the often blunt, outspoken Schaefer political tactics over the years quite possibly would have been more concerned if he hadn't measured true to form.

The gov.-elect can hardly be criticized for his tight ship stance. After all, he will be the state's top direct captain, responsible directly for the state's progress or lack of it, responsible for selection of subleaders under his command who will be dedicated to supporting his course of hopefully sailing forward.

Top black Assembly official in this respect is Sen. Clarence Blount (41 D.-Balto.), member of that upper chamber since '71 and a strong Schaefer ally.

Sen. Blount, in addition to an expected committee chairmanship, is being returned as majority leader in that body. He held the post during the past session under Gov. Harry Hughes, and is the first of his race to be so honored in Annapolis.

Honored World War II veteran, he has a distinguished educational and public involvement background, but has maintained a rather low-key profile, rather than the flamboyancy usually associated with many politicians.

Gov.-elect Schaefer, however, has many, many more influential black citizenry support in the Baltimore metropolitan area. The black owned inner harbor marina, a top parking facility in the same area, and a number of other economic projects are concrete reflections of that solid support.

All of which brings this piece back to the astute Haysbert, millionaire head of the Parks Sausage Company, and his announcement of considering entering the city's mayoral race.

One doesn't have to stretch one's speculation to envision the Schaefer image in the background.

Haysbert, longtime friend and ardent supporter of the gov.-elect, talks about changing his party affiliations to Republican. He reasons black voters would then have a choice in the general election of a race candidate, in the event Clarence Burns and Kurt Schmoke knock each other out in the primary with Robert Embry a winner.

Then Haysbert could assure an Embry victory with only a perfunctory campaign. Embry is a longtime friend of Schaefer, and will undoubtedly get his support in the primary, should he choose to enter that race rather than bypass it and run in the general as an independent.

Suppose Embry should lose in the primary? Schmoke is no friend of Schaefer, even should he win. Burns is so lukewarm with Schaefer the gov.-elect has already said he will "wait and see," when asked about his support of the City Council president.

All of which means that with either Burns or Schmoke as a primary winner, Schaefer might well have little desired tight ship clout over his beloved Baltimore — without the standing in the wings Republican candidacy of Haysbert, who with virtually unlimited resources could conceivably win over either one.

Whatever the Democratic primary results favoring Burns or Schmoke, the Haysbert low-key parking facility in the general would please black and white voters and, more importantly in this reasoning, Schaefer with his continued Baltimore reins.

Sounds far-fetched? Well, look at this projected scenario again, from the Schaefer insurance of his winning candidate as this city's next elected mayor.

It's as simple as that.

—All is fair

Continued from page 4

in politics.

My reasons grow out of a real desire to see someone who looks like me in the driver's seat. My position would be the same no matter who the black person was. But that's emotionalism; I can't allow myself to succumb to, unless the person is not only black but also the best candidate in the field.

Sure, I want a new vision, or a new revolution, or a new beginning or whatever fancy slogan someone wishes to offer. I want a billion dollars too. The question is not what we want, but what is possible, how can it be paid for, and who has the political skill to get it.

"Du" has repeatedly said that nothing will change in his administration. Why should it? We will keep the can-do spirit of the last decade; we will keep the innovative financing methods we've developed; we will keep the team of nationally recognized experts at the head of our city's agencies.

We will not change anything; we will keep what has worked, in the real world, and apply those things to solving the problems of education, housing, jobs, economic development, and the vision of the future in Baltimore. "Du" Burns understands this very well.

I've seen the games people play in this city's government: I've seen how they will only answer the questions asked; I've seen the frustration citizens experience from dealing with a huge bureaucracy that takes delight in not responding.

I've also seen people with plenty brains but little experience and even less insider status get mauled to pieces trying to learn how to deal with it. And while they are learning, the needs of their people go unsolved. The job of a big city mayor is not one anyone can be allowed to learn through on the job training.

The person who holds it must be someone who has already been there, in deed, experienced, political know-how and guts. Black or white, "Du" is the only one on the horizon who can fit that bill — now!

A writer once said, "people reach their levels of incompetence." I think he's right. Yet, the mental flexibility of the man called "Du," his energy, his sentinel knowledge of Baltimore, and his record of successes in the political minefield of this city should make him the choice of anyone who is willing to deal with things as they are.

Yet, whether any contenders, and particularly Mr. Schmoke, wait is really not their decision. That decision is yours, the reader, the voter. You'd better believe it, all is fair; that's not how it ought to be, that is, however, the way it is.

DEC 1986