Baltimore Afro-American

Founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City, Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher (1922-1967)

Jesse in Maryland

When Rev. Jesse Jackson visited with the Legislative Black Caucus on Tuesday, it was an indication that he is definitely running for president in 1987 and it was also an indication that he planned to campaign hard in Maryland which is now one of the states that hold their presidential primaries on a Super Tuesday with other southern states.

Jackson called for an attack not on racial violence but the economic violence that plagues the black community nationwide. Jackson warned that recent incidents of racial violence should not distract black activists from the struggle for economic justice.

He also advocated the building of broadbased coalitions as a way of bringing about economic parity in society. Hopefully his remarks will not be interpreted to mean that a black agenda can not be pushed in the Maryland General Assembly or elsewhere.

Black people's legislative agendas have historically benefitted a much broader segment of society.

The work of black Reconstruction legislators helped to improve the conditions of whites as well as blacks in the south although their accomplishments are still largely unrecognized.

Hopefully, Jackson was able to inspire the legislative Black Caucus to push for a black agenda in the General Assembly. They are behind schedule because of the fight over chairmanships this past fall but it is hoped they will be able to salvage something from this session.

UMES gets donation

When Richard Henson, chairman of Henson Aviation in Salisbury donated $2 million to the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, he gave the money because he took a tour of the campus the year before and found that it was quite evident that the school needed the money.

The gift was the largest in the history of the school. The money will provide books, tuitions and living expenses for talented students. The fellowship fund will aid meritorious graduate students.

The money is contingent on the state beautifying and enhancing the campus. Fisk University, another black college received a gift of over $1 million from Bill Cosby recently.

Hopefully this is a sign that black colleges will increasingly be the beneficiaries of private philanthropy which is the backbone of most predominantly white colleges and universities.

Many people mistakenly believe that black state colleges are adequately funded by their respective state governments. Black state colleges and universities have historically suffered from inadequately funding that continues to this day.

It is of the utmost importance that black alumni of these schools approaching giving to their alma maters in the same way that students of private institutions do.

Not everyone can give $2 million the way Richard Henson did, but black colleges and universities would benefit if alumni would give regularly and would make provisions in their wills to leave gifts to their schools.

Every dollar counts.

LETTERS

Good Samaritans

As humans, we are all subject to foibles and the seduction by our more primitive and base emotions. As I was driving, 1/25/87, I allowed myself to become overwhelmed with outrage, anger and ugly emotions regarding the highly publicized racial incidents in Forsyth County, Georgia, when I was shaken by a frightening ordeal and a subsequent sense of helplessness.

God, however, has ways of reorienting us with perfect timing. After being hopelessly stuck in a snow bank and wet ice on Ingleside Avenue at Westview, three Good Samaritans (two men and a woman) voluntarily entered the knee deep snow bank and, without a word, quietly pushed me out.

After thanking them and pulling away, I immediately prayed for forgiveness for having allowed myself to have been so negatively influenced by what happened approximately five hundred miles from here.

I am encouraged by a recent report identifying Maryland as one of our more enlightened and tolerant states and encourage all to never lose sight of the fact that, being human, we are a largely decent species but so easily affected by those all too consuming diseases of intolerance, hatred and bigotry.

I sincerely thank those beautiful human beings who helped me on that Sunday and also that Good Samaritan from Elkridge who voluntarily opened up access roads to a snow bound community. Someday, it may not be necessary to do so; however, to make my point here, I must regrettably identify myself as a black member of the human race and the Good Samaritans as white.

JOHN B. FERRON

Dr. Wendell M. Holloway

I was very pleased and flattered that the AFRO-AMERICAN wanted to profile my activities and interests as reflected in the article entitled "An Afro Profile: Dr. Wendell M. Holloway" which appeared in the January 24, 1987 edition. However, I must ask that several points made in the printed version of the story be placed in the proper context.

First, I am not the first black chair of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities and Colleges. I didn't know the answer to that question when asked, but I have learned that Dr. Elaine C. Davis held that position a number of years ago.

Also, I felt your headline and lead paragraph were totally out of context because I am in no position to comment on Morgan State University's present standing or future. Any comment on Morgan State should come from the Chairman of Morgan's Board or an authorized spokesperson from that Board.

The singular point I attempted to make is that Morgan is one of four historically black colleges and universities in Maryland that could be threatened by the current economic, political, and educational environment.

It must be strongly pointed out here that I made my comments in that context and on the basis of proposals that are contained in the recently released Report of the Governor's Commission on Excellence in Higher Education.

I offer a few other observations hopefully to set straight the official record. The article could at least have mentioned some positive strides made by this Board which were discussed during our lengthy interview. The word "weak" was used by me, for instance, to portray institutions of higher learning rather than as a reference to "weak" in terms of quality of programs, competence of the administration and faculty, or the tremendous dedication of the students.

WENDELL M. HOLLOWAY

Representative mayor

Finally, Baltimore has a mayor representative of its predominately black population. Clarence "Du" Burns, the dapper sixty-eight-year-old ex-president of the City Council, is that person. Now that we have achieved this historical accomplishment, let's keep him based upon his track record as a seasoned servant to the City of Baltimore.

To pre-judge him by questioning his articulation or his academic achievements could be catastrophic. "Du" Burns is a self-made, determined individual who has boot - strapped it from shower attendant to the first black mayor of Baltimore.

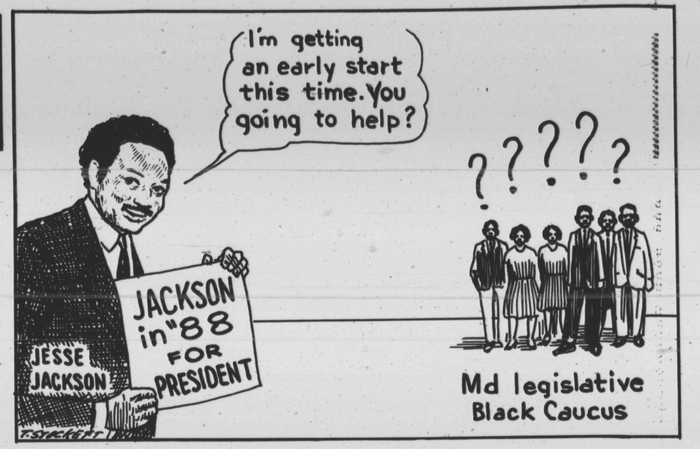
Even Kurt Schmoke, the opposing mayoral candidate, has said in reference to "Du" Burns ". . . this man is no fool. He didn't come this far being a fool . . . he is not to be underestimated . . ."

During his 16 years in the City Council, "Du" Burns has worked extremely close with the outgoing Mayor Schaefer in an effort to bring about the renaissance of Baltimore. "Du" Burns has used tact and great leadership in dealing with all other members of the City Council; always eventually getting the job done. Getting the job done is indicative of his earned name "Do" Burns (Du Burns).

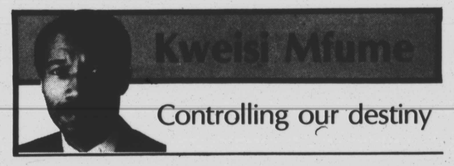
As citizens, let's give this well-deserved man a chance to be a full-time mayor. Let's be proud of his fantastic achievements. Baltimore deserves to keep its first black mayor for a full term.

As citizens we must be cognizant that, come next election, a split vote could lose both Kurt Schmoke and "Du" Burns. Sophisticated voting should allow us to collectively support "Du" Burns and, in the following election, we should vote for Kurt Schmoke as Baltimore's second elected Black Mayor.

JEROME DYSON WRIGHT



Md legislative Black Caucus



Kweisi Mfume

Controlling our destiny

Quite a dim portrait was painted of Baltimore's future in a recent report on where the city is headed by the year 2000.

There really were no big surprises contained within "Baltimore 2000: A Choice of Futures." It simply put into print what most of us already thought, instinctively believed, and too often chose to dismiss.

Some readers of the report interpreted it as a doomsday message, while others chose not to interpret it at all.

The report looked at the evolution of Baltimore over a 15-year period and saw, among other phenomenon, a weak education system, flagging initiative and a steady exodus of jobs and people to other municipalities.

It foretold of an insidious political and economic powerlessness settling over a substantial segment of those citizens who remain, most of whom are black.

That is quite an irony. There was a time when the cities held out a promise of a bright future for Americans of African ancestry who migrated up from rural southern states to the newly burgeoning industrial centers of the North and near-North.

Even with limited education, these unskilled laborers could be trained to work in the urban factories and make a better living than they had known in the South.

Long after these opportunities began to fade, though, blacks continued the urban migration in such waves, that many industrial cities, unable to accommodate the flow, transformed into ghettos no longer able to keep the promise.

The problem was exacerbated as labor intensive industries, such as steel in Baltimore, became more technologically sophisticated over time, and gradually required fewer people. Add to that, foreign competitors who could manufacture the same products for less, and the formula for chaos worsened.

The report points out that a significant number of the potential workforce now residing in the city is poorly educated. And because of inadequate schooling, qualify only for the lowest paying jobs.

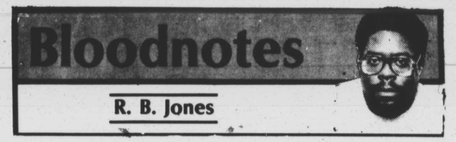
The danger however, is not the report, but rather the inclination to accept it with the assumption that nothing can be changed. Of particular note is the fact that the black church and its leadership are virtually discounted by the author — an oversight, deliberate or otherwise, that should not occur.

Reports such as this come and go. They must not be seen as barometers or yardsticks that measure our will, but as hurdles to leap and rivers to cross. And although its diagnosis is correct, its prognosis is not.

This report, as others before it, suggests that ordinary people like you and I are helpless in altering Baltimore's future. It assumes that we will watch the next 15 years as spectators on the sidelines rather than players on the field.

Our challenge lies not in being told what we already know, but in understanding what we know in order to do what we must. We must lead by example, teach by trust, build on our lessons and set new goals.

Baltimore in the year 2000 does represent a choice of futures — ours by our design or someone else's by theirs.



Bloodnotes

R. B. Jones

Short shots

The Urban League is sponsoring a series of programs on Sundays concerning the issue of male/female relations in the black community. Sessions will be held Feb. 15 and 22 at Pratt Library Central Branch Wheeler Auditorium.

The first session was this past Sunday and a distinguished and learned panel made some rather pertinent points. The drawback was that the audience did not get a chance to question the panelists after their presentations.

Many points could be lost by the time the next session rolls around. As I sat there listening to the speakers I thought about the probelms between black men and women.

The relationships seem fraught with disrespect, mistrust and an inability to maintain commitments. The divorce rate among black couples hovers around the 50 percent mark.

Many black children are being raised in single-parent homes and far too many black children languish in foster homes and institutions without any permanent family.

Yet in the midst of all these grim statistics and facts something must be kept very clear. The family in this society is disintegrating. This is a general fact and not just confined to the black community.

The white divorce rate is about 50 percent also. The mass media is addressing child molestation, domestic violence and rape, not because these problems are rampant in the black community, but because they are rampant in the white community.

As an oppressed community that is forced to adopt the customs and morals of the dominant group, our relationships reflect the alienation and disintegration of the dominant group.

The question is not why are our relationships so troubled frequently, but how are they as strong as they are with the additional burdens we bear?

Whatever we may think about each other when we are angry or hurt we must remember that our survival has depended on each other and any progress we will make in the future will depend on each other.

— —

The toast of talk television Oprah Winfrey broadcasted a show from Forsyth County and did her usual superficial job of handling weighty issues.

Her purpose, aside from capitalizing on the national attention the all white county has received, was supposedly to allow the residents of that county to speak for themselves about how they really feel.

No blacks were on the program because none live in the county.

Black residents were run out of the county in 1912. What she got from the pro-white supremacy residents was the same old song and dance, unvarnished racism.

The more liberal residents expressed the usual tired comments about their own lack of racism and how the Klan does not represent the majority of the residents of the county.

Call me cynical, but I have heard that kind of tepid declaration before, especially in the 1960s.

While liberals who were not themselves racist in Birmingham in 1963 gave Martin Luther King the same kind of rhetoric. He wrote his classic Letter from a Birmingham Jail in response to their cries for patience.

How much patience is a race supposed to have' Oprah's liberals renounced the Klan, but they also criticized Hosea Williams for coming into their county stirring up trouble. That phrase has a familiar ring in it, like "outside agitator."

Rev. Williams wasn't allowed to be on the show because Oprah did not want confrontation. What she obviously does not understand is that when racism is given a national television platform it must be opposed vigorously on that platform.

Oprah, by no means put up an adequate opposition to David Dukes, head of the National Association for the Advancement of White People.

Statements were made on that program unchallenged that purported to show how white people's rights are abridged in this society and blacks are given unearned privileges.

That is a racist lie that Miss Winfrey and the white liberals did not confront. Of course there was the usual dose of raw anti-communist hysteria too which went unchallenged also.

If Miss Winfrey is going to tackle such subjects instead of who has fat thighs then she should sharpen her intellectual skills before she does another show like the one from Forsyth County.

— —

It is a very interesting fact to know that the "Cosby Show" is the highest rated program in the United States and in South Africa. Even the folks from all-white Forsyth County Georgia acknowledged on Oprah Winfrey's Show that they watched the "Cosby Show."

Is the "Cosby Show" universally profound or just universally bland? Perhaps you readers can tell me. Drop me a line here at the AFRO explaining why the Cosby Show appeals to blacks and racist whites at the same time.

I don't watch it regularly because I don't want to overdose on the sugar.

— —

They say you aren't supposed to derive glee from another's misfortune, but I thought it was quite amusing that former national security advisor to the president Robert McFarlane tried to kill himself the other day.

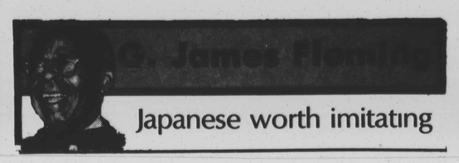
Is the Iran/Contra scandal enough to make the man try to take his life? If one of Reagan's cowboys, who had access to national secrets, could not take a little pressure then who else is hiding under the covers of his bed when he is supposed to be watching over national security.

Reagan's procontra clique was ready willing and able to pay their mercenaries to kill the people of Nicaragua. They were very tough when they could contract out their murders and they could keep their executive hands clean and bloodfree.

If Reagan's contra cowboys were doing what was right to save America from communism they should be proud to bear any penalty for knowingly breaking the law.

They are "national heroes" in the words of the failing lightbulb that occupies the presidency. National heroes do not fear prosecution and prison when the nation's future is at stake.

If life is unbearable for McFarlane thousands of miles away from the war that he and his fellow Reaganites are financing, what must it be for Nicaraguan peasants living near the Honduran border?



Japanese worth imitating

Swinging backwards and swinging back. Whichever describes what is happening so far as black/white behavior and relations are concerned.

The pendulum is swinging back or, to use another figure, the hands of the clock of interracial progress are turning back. Perhaps spottily, but back, just the same.

Old hat, by now, is the tenor of White House doings and pronouncements and anti-civil rights activities of the Justice Department. For instance, Ronald Reagan is the first president since Franklin Roosevelt who has not received the Congressional Black Caucus, while his attorney general has gone into court, time after time, to argue against affirmative action and other civil rights gains.

Howard Beach, on Long Island, N.Y.; the Citadel campus incident, in Charleston, S.C., the Forsyth, Ga. mob outburst; the Ku Klux Klan cross burnings on Maryland's Eastern Shore; and the recall of Martin Luther Kings birthday as a legal holiday in Arizona are reminders of the changing temper of the American people.

— —

A recent happening in Baltimore City gives further accent to what can happen here, too.

A Baltimore City school teacher, "home teacher" assigned to tutor pupils in their homes because they are ill or handicapped, tried to perform her duties, not long ago, in Armistead Gardens.

This teacher is black and she was forced to ask for another assignment.

The first day grown men accosted her, yelled at her that "You don't belong here" and "Go back where you came from." She attempted to explain that she was a school teacher, employed by the Department of Education, but the yelling continued. Nevertheless, she entered the house and did her teaching.

When she came out, her duties over, and tried to drive off, she could not get her car started, although she tried and tried.

When help came, it was found that water had been poured into her gas tank, while she was inside performing her duties.

The next time she tried to visit her Armistead Gardens' charge, a gathering of adolescents stoned her car with snowballs while shouting that she had no business in their neighborhood.

The teacher gave up, reported her troubles to her school superiors and asked for a different assignment.

It can happen even in Baltimore, despite other giant steps in politics and other aspects of the city's life.

— —

Housing is another area where racial discrimination persists, in both Baltimore and its surrounding counties. Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. ("working for justice in housing") is still finding work to do, and increasingly so.

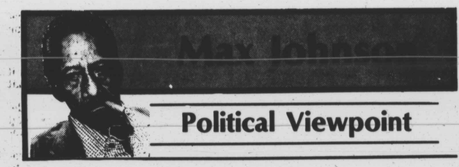
Whereas, in 1983, BNI received 597 complaints of alleged discriminatory housing practices, in 1986, it received 634 such complaints.

A sample of these complaints, which were the basis for suits under the Federal Fair Housing Acts, were for (a) $1,050,000 inpunitive and compensatory damages against a 500-unit complex whose agents repeatedly told inquiring blacks that no apartments were available, while whites were told of the availability of apartments and (b) suit for $1,049,000 in similar action against a developer who steered inquiring blacks away from his homes to others in all-black or interracial neighborhoods.

While the companies were different in name, their practices were similar: refusal to obey fair housing laws; refusal to rent or sell to blacks, solely because of their race and color.

BNI has also found that one-fourth of Greater Baltimore real estate operators fail to comply, in their advertising, with HUD's Fair Advertising Regulations governing the proper display of the equal opportunity slogan or logo.

Indeed, whether Forsyth, Ga., New York's Howard Beach or Baltimore City — not to exclude Washington — there are signs that the pendulum is swinging back. Some say even Congress is no longer interested in civil rights.



Political Viewpoint

Reaffirmation this week by Robert Embry, former school board president, that he definitely is still seriously pondering entering the November mayoral race only points up again, if anything, why this situation arose in the first place.

Embry, longtime friend of Gov. William Donald Schaefer, is just insurance, if needed, that a candidate of the Schaefer blessings wins in November.

Schaefer, of course, has let it be known publicly that he favors Clarence "Du" Burns to retain his seat as Baltimore's first black mayor. He did so openly with an unusual brotherly love hug of the new mayor at his office taking ceremonies.

But, Burns may or may not be considered a sure winner, considering his current brief period in office.

Hence, the insurance scenario projected here some weeks ago that follows a pattern quite common in any number of key political campaigns at various times, in various areas.

Concern here is that should Burns show disturbing signs of faltering in foreseen voter support against the bid of Kurt Schmoke, Embry would be on hand to take up the black/white slack.

Then, Embry, who by virtue of his former position is viewed as a natural vote-getter among especially those working in and affiliated with the city's education system, could make a grand last minute appeal, switching his supporters to Burns.

Further, according to somebody thinking out loud some weeks ago to somebody else, should Burns or Embry, if he stays in the race to draw potential vote from Schmoke, should either or both lose, there would be the insurance valve of Raymond Haysbert, Parks Sausage Co. top executive.

Haysbert, it will be recalled, announced in late December he was changing his affiliation to Republican, and was planning entry in the mayoral race under that party label.

He has long been a strong ally of Schaefer, and is seen in this role as further insurance of a Schaefer desired winning candidate should Burns and/or Embry lose.

Black and white establishments combined support would then switch party lines in the general to boost Haysbert as a winner.

This projection carries some variations to meet possible changing situations, somebody said again recently, though Haysbert has been quiet since his announcement, but the overall insurance framework still stands.

There is nothing new about this type of political maneuvering. Candidates have long since been entered into a campaign to ensure victory for establishments' desired candidates.

This, then, leads to early speculations and possible indications of the two mayoral candidates' tickets.

Burns has strongly indicated he will pick Frank Gallagher, interim city council president, as his running mate in that spot.

He told Gallagher, oldest council member by way of service, at his ceremony: "I hope you are the next city council president."

Other council president candidates announced and strongly rumored are Mrs. Mary W. Conaway, register of wills; Larry Young, General Assembly delegate, and Robert Douglass, former state senator.

Schmoke, if he follows the apparent attraction of his supporters, would likely take for his council spot Young, who gained considerable sympathetic attention recently, when Schaefer was blamed for knocking him out of a House of Delegates chairmanship he held under Hughes' reign.

He could run and still remain a delegate should his ticket lose.

Embry? Anybody's guess at this stage, should he officially enter.

For comptroller, there is Hyman Pressman, longtime veteran in that seat; John Douglass, Assembly delegate, who ran a strong race against him in the last councilmanic elections, and Thomas J. S. Waxter, 5th D. councilman for years, who is quitting the council and wants the job.

Pressman's relationship with Schaefer has been hot and cold. He said recently he was a last minute choice to be put on the Schaefer ticket during the last mayoral campaign.

But Douglass looms as a possible choice, unless Burns wants to go strongly for the Jewish vote.

Specularly, there could quite likely arise either — a Burns, Gallagher, Douglass, or a Burns, Gallagher, Pressman ticket.

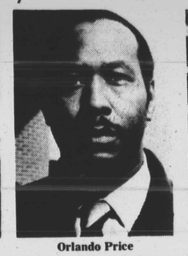
Opposing, possibly seen in the same vein, might be — a Schmoke, Young, Douglass, or a Schmoke, Young, Pressman ticket, the former maybe somewhat unlikely because it would be all black.

Then again, Embry could step in officially and pick up a black candidate for council presidency and Waxter for comptroller, or black candidates for council president and comptroller.

AFRO SURVEY

Are you in favor of TV condom ads?

William Cox



Orlando Price

Bernadine Turner

Eugenia Payne

This week the question to the man and woman in the street is, "Are you in favor of TV condom ads?"

William Cox, 37, senior meter reader, "They are product; they are sold in pharmacies. It's not like the people aren't aware of them. Condoms are like any other product. People should be made aware of them to prevent the spread of viruses."

Orlando Price, 37, enforcement agent, "I'm in favor of it since sex has been so open. We should do whatever possible to stop the spread of these viruses. Kids are going to do it anyway (have sex), so we should inform them of ways to protect themselves. I also believe that it should be done tastefully."

Bernadine Turner, 63, retired, "Yes. This is because everyone would know about them. This would try to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases."

Eugenia Payne, 60, nurses' assistant, "No, I am not in favor of it. I feel that it is something that should be kept private."

John Wynder, 46, bail bondsman, "I feel that you should have advertisement for condoms. With all that is going on, they should also have courses in school and college. They should be able to advertise because sex has been going on since time began. I'm more concerned about us—our community. We should educate blacks about the dangers."

Tyrone Purvis, 31, banquet worker, "I don't think they should. Kids might not understand the use of condoms. Then they will confront their parents and their parents might not be ready to explain."

Cathy Richardson, 27, housewife and homemaker, "I'm in favor of the use of condoms. I believe it will make more people aware of the usefulness of condoms in preventing the spread of disease."

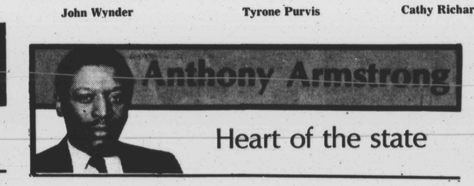
Darryl Taylor, 27, special policeman, "I think they should advertise them. That way the younger people will know what to use so as not to get pregnant. That way kids can go ahead with their lives."

John Wynder

Tyrone Purvis

Cathy Richardson

Darryl Taylor



Anthony Armstrong

Heart of the state

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author, an employee on the staff of Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns, and in no way reflect the position of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.)

It is no coincidence that the much publicized Goldseker Report was introduced on the day Clarence H. "Du" Burns was sworn-in, as the first black mayor of Baltimore City.

It is also no coincidence tha the report layed out a litany of problems that, it said, Baltimore must face, if this city is not to go floating down the Chesapeake Bay, and into oblivion.

What is interesting about the Goldseker report is its timing, and the implications it makes. Implications that seem to place the history of all of Baltimore's challenges at the foot of the current mayor.

Something else is important to note about that rather "the sky is falling, the sky is falling" report. First, the report is the work of a foundation whose namesake was notorious for creating some of the very problems (particularly in housing) that the report addresses.

The infamous Goldseker Realty Company had, for years, been "renting with an option to buy" homes to Baltimoreans.

The only problem was many of the people who thought they had, in fact, purchased their homes from Goldseker Realty found out, years later, that they were only renters.

The real estate scandal, explained away by Goldseker as a mere misunderstanding on the part of all those "buyers," left many Baltimore families in a financial and domestic position of ruin.

The other important thing about the Goldseker Report are the individuals the report is designed to, again by implication, serve the interest of and for. Those people, very frankly, are individuals who want to see Schmoke become mayor of Baltimore City.

The tragedy is, as it always seems to be, that our citizens have spent 15 years upgrading the substance and the image of Baltimore, to have one glossy report attempt to tear it all down in just one reading.

Some people believe, however, that their ends justify any means, even when those means hurt the very thing they say they want to improve.

The Goldseker people are either forget, stupid, duplicitous, wasteful of good money though earned badly, or taken by storm by slogans, like "the new vision" or "a better tomorrow," or whatever it is the Ron Shapiros and the Larry Gibsons want to attempt to blind all of us with.

I hear people going around Baltimore talking about, "have you read the Goldseker Report?" Well, the answer is "no," most people haven't read the report; except, that is, those portions that appeared in Baltimore's only daily newspaper.

Don't think for one minute that that daily newspaper spent all that space and ink on that particular report (when hundreds of such reports are published by organizations of various interest — both private and public — every month) just to inform you.

No, any information the report furnished was just the tip of the iceberg. No, the real intent, under the surface, is to frame your mind, to get you, too, to kick Baltimore in the butt; in an effort to have you buy-into the promises of those they would really and secretly want you to support.

In addition, they would never, and I can't remember ever, do such a thing when William Donald Schaefer was mayor. Now, all of a sudden, Chicken Little is roaming the city; and over night we should round-up all the babies and hide all the women.

Along with the Gibsons, the Shapiros, and all the others of like mind; that daily newspaper could use a lesson in responsibility: too.

Anyone who doesn't know that Baltimore is the heart of Maryland is either asleep, or misinformed, or crazy, or all of the above. This orphaned child attitude, that many Marylanders seem to have about Baltimore, is reminiscent of a rich kid who forgot that before his father got rich, his father was poor; and that he owes his father much of the credit for his, the son's, current well-being.

Maryland is perhaps the third or fourth richest state in these United States. That's right, little tiny Maryland, is one of the richest states in the entire nation. We got that way, in large part, because of the economic viability that Baltimore brought to the entire state.

Now, that Baltimore has fallen on lesser times, much of the rest of the state acts like it wants to go its own separate way; and like the forgetful child, now bite the hand that for so long supplied so much of the riches.

It is such a short sighted position; Oh, how fast we forget. I bring this up because reports like those issued by the Goldseker (or is it gold seeking) Foundation only tend to give support to those who want to turn their backs on Baltimore, now that they find themselves living in the lap of riches.

Yet, one thing is clear: what goes around comes around. If Maryland is going to continue to be such a bright economic star, it cannot forget where that initial light came from.

I understand that money tends to go where it can get the best return, and I generally agree with that principal.

I also know, however, that if this state culls out and tramples on its heart — Baltimore — this state will soon find itself like Texas or Louisiana — full of one-time glitter that couldn't stand the pressure of one economic downturn.

Baltimore is a tough city to love; but love it we do, and over the last decade or so, we've learned to love her even more. Tell a person or a city how worthwhile they are and they'll start (or continue) to be that way.

Tell them nothing but fools-gold tales and they will act as if all that glitters is, in fact, gold. Well, it isn't.

No matter how much Baltimore comes up problems, problems, problems; we are still the economic, cultural, and educational mecca of this state. What has happened, of course, is now the city is being looked at, by our so-called friends around the state, as black Baltimore.

It is the place where, "all those black people in the state live." So, as with everything from trash removal to building fancy buildings, when the city becomes "black" all the brightness and all the hope is supposed to go the way of the electric streetcar.

In fact, I think we've done a marvelous job of helping Maryland become so rich. I hope the Goldsekers, and anyone else around this state, aren't so mindless and heartless to forget the good done by the heart of the state.

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.

FEB 1987