John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board Publisher
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President
Jack L. Hodge
Assistant to the Publisher

Editorial Page

The Afro-American

"There are two prescriptions for success — Faith and Industry"

John H. Murphy
1840-1922

Let's do what we can

They say cold hands signify a warm heart. If that is the case, there must certainly be many warm hearts in Baltimore this weekend.

And those warm hearts are needed. As the mercury continues to plunge and snow clouds span the horizon, we must be cognizant of those without the where-with-all to retreat to a warm home and hearth.

They are out there, many seeking shelter from the jaws of winter.

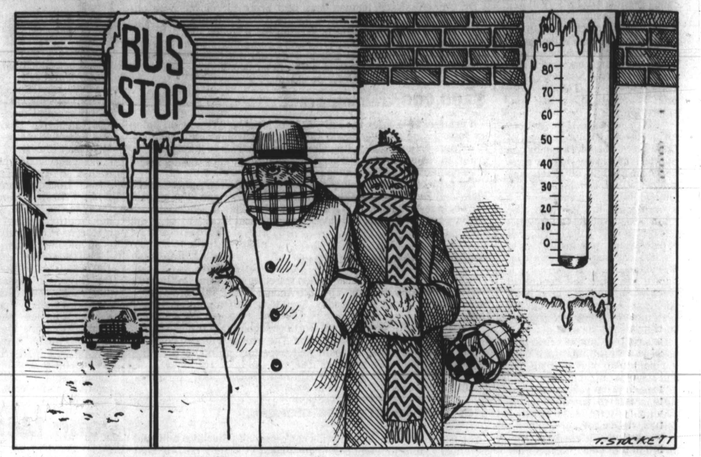
Conceivably, if all of the approximately 18,000 homeless people in the city converged on the 9,000 beds in shelters around the city, there would be near-chaos.

Fortunately, the use of temporary cots and the unwillingness of some street people to have a roof over their heads would help alleviate a rush to the shelters.

Last summer, Baltimore voters narrowly rejected a plan which would have obligated the city to find housing for all its homeless.

But the margin was close, close enough for us to believe there are warm hearts in the city.

If so, now is the time for those hearts to step forward. We all must do what we can to make sure our shelters get the support they will undoubtedly need during this cruel winter.



Retain James Grant

Oftentimes these pages are used to castigate public servants who fail to recognize which public they are serving. Fortunately James Grant, the interim Recreation and Parks director, does not fall into that category.

In just a few short months as the temporary department chief, Grant has demonstrated that he knows how to guide the hundreds of employees who service the city's parks and recreation centers with skill and vision.

He has expressed an admirable dream of expanding the horizons of urban recreation. He wants to broaden the experiences of inner-city youngsters and adults by increasing opportunities to learn and participate in traditionally non-urban sports such as soccer.

Grant is a veteran of city service, who has established a reputation as an administrator who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and get the job done. But his diplomatic style has been demonstrated in the smoothness of the transition of power from former Recreation and Parks director Chris Delaporte to Grant.

For all of the above reasons, we heartily ask Mayor Schmoke to retain Grant. At a time when many of our youths appear to be turning away from recreation and into sometimes unsavory pursuits, a man of Grant's talents is undoubtedly needed.

Retain James Grant.

Sen. Michael Mitchell

The hardest thing for a family to do is criticize its own. But sometimes, in order for the family to remain viable, criticism is needed.

We must question Michael Mitchell's decision to remain in his Senate seat until he and his brother Clarence are sentenced Jan. 29 in connection with their conviction on wire fraud charges.

His constituents of the 39th District must suffer without legislative leadership as Mitchell takes his seat on Jan. 13 while awaiting his sentencing. There is little a legislator with the cloud of a possible prison term and felony conviction can do for his people in the span of 17 days.

And once he does leave office, it will be at least 30 days before a replacement actually takes over.

We must question the Mitchell claim that they have been singled out for prosecution because of their race and their ideology.

If ever there was an example of our pluralistic society, then that example is the men and women of various races, political views and ages who are being swept up into the Wedtech scandal.

Let us await the results of the Mitchell appeal and ignore the charges of racism which, in this case, only cloud the issue.

The results of the Mitchells' appeal also must rest not on the color of their skin, but on the content of their characters.

Our Readers Write

Support Mitchell brothers

The AFRO is to be commended for its recent article on the Mitchell National Campaign for Justice Rally which was held at Bethel AME Church on Sunday, Dec. 20.

More than 1,000 people from a cross-section of the community attended the rally to support Michael and Clarence Mitchell and other powerful and influential black elected officials at all levels of government nationwide.

The Mitchell Campaign for Justice Rally also signaled a "rebirth of the Civil Rights Movement" in this country, and the establishment of a Mitchell Legal Defense Fund to meet costly legal expenses. Persons not attending the rally can support the Mitchell brothers by sending a contribution to 1239 Druid Hill Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21217.

Since the white press has continuously sought to lynch the Mitchell brothers, it is imperative that the AFRO and other segments of the black media effectively communicate positive information about all of the national efforts which are currently underway to provide financial support to these noble men of freedom.

Extensive coverage of the February, 1988 rally in Washington is vitally needed to ensure that more people will become major participants in the movement for freedom and justice. In the final analysis, it is incumbent that the black community, especially in Baltimore, support Michael and Clarence Mitchell because all of us have benefitted fromt the fruits of their labor and we owe that much to them!

If weallow them to be politically assassinated like Powell, Diggs, Stokes, Gibson and countless other past and present black elected officials, then we will surely flunk the test of "being our brothers' keeper."

Dr. Betty Jean Jackson-Park

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. Write
The AFRO-AMERICAN
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Howard Beach Verdict

While the verdict is not all we would have desired, it is nevertheless a setback for racism, but we would be naive if we believed future incidents of this nature will not occur again. When they do, law enforcement officials must deal with them just as forcefully as they have done in the Howard Beach case.

The jury was obviously not impressed by the defense's heavy handed and appalling efforts to portray the black victims of the attack as the aggressors. a man died because of raw naked racism and it is in the interest of justice that those responsible do not go unpunished.

It has been a long nightmare for all those concerned and we are hopeful that the tensions and bitterness generated by the case can now begin to dispel. We need to put Howard Beach behind us, having learned again that racism destroys both the victim and the victimizer.

Benjamin L. Hooks
Executive Director,
NAACP

Baltimore 2,000

The demand for "Baltimore 2000: A Choice of Futures" continues virtually unabated. We originally printed 3,500 and obviously did not expect the kind of interest and attention (and controversy) among the general public that the report has engendered.

Consequently, we have commissioned a second printing, which will be available after Jan. 1. A copy of the report can be requested only by phoning 837-5557. Please do not call the Foundation.

We still will not be able to provide a copy of "Baltimore 2000" to everyone who calls; so, as before, additional copies are being made available to each public and college/university library in the region.

Morris Goldseker
Foundation of
Maryland, Inc.

A vote for Jesse Jackson

I am a member of the white or Caucasian race, and I intend to vote for the Rev. Jesse Jackson in the March 8, 1988 presidential primary.

I admire any man or woman who cn pull him or herself up by their bootstrap.

Here is a man, Rev. Jackson, born in a poverty stricken fatherless home, and running for president of the United States.

I predict the Rev. Jackson is going to be a power to be reckoned with at the Democratic convention. And there is going to be a lot of my race going to vote for him. He speaks his mind and don't fear nothing. There is nothing phoney about him.

Morris Dvoskin
Baltimore

HODGE-PODGE

By Jack L. Hodge
Assistant to the Publisher

'Live as brothers or perish as fools'

Almost 30 years ago, in fact it was May 1959, a young preacher visited Baltimore — the news of his coming so excited City Hall that all roads leading to Bolton Hill were washed and swept clean.

The young preacher was Martin Luther King, Jr. of Montgomery, Ala., and he was coming to town to speak at Cornerstone Baptist Church, Bolton and Wilson Streets.

The Rev. I. Logan Kearse was host pastor. He had brought his congregation into the Cornerstone edifice only a month before. The church was formerly a Jewish synagogue.

King's visit was during the time of The Great Northwest Movement. Blacks were moving into Forest Park, Ashburton and the more affluent were pushing into the lower fringes of Baltimore County in the Liberty Heights corridor.

Thus, inner city churches and synagogues were changing congregations, and even becoming home to fraternal organizations.

Those were the days when Negroes were paying premium prices for the privilege of getting out of the ghetto — and even stiffer prices to renovate their newly purchased domicile.

The irony: the sellers moved further northwest — into new houses, no less, and a neat profit to boot.

I remember one person bragging about "stealing" a house at $15,000, and spending another $5,000 on renovations. New houses, at the time, were selling for far less.

These were the times, the circumstances, under which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached extolling the brotherhood of man.

Like John the Baptist, Martin was a voice crying in the wilderness. Unlike John, he was being heard. Like a rolling stone, Martin was gathering a following —a huge following. People were listening — white folk as well as black folk.

He was in Baltimore, after a speech at then Maryland State College in Princess Anne, drumming up support for voter registration throughout the South.

"There are about 5 million Negroes in the South eligible to vote, but only about 1 million are actually voting, he said, adding: The most decisive step colored Americans can take is that short walk to the ballot booth. If we are to solve the problems that beset us, we must gain the vote."

"We are not independent," he said. "We are interdependent. We are tied together — here and all over the world. None of us can do without the other."

The theme of Dr. King's speech at Cornerstone that spring night was "The Three Dimensions of Life."

Some 500 persons turned out to hear the young preacher who was to obtain immortality.

Little did we know what was in store — that he was destined to be felled by an assassin's bullet, as he explained the three dimensions of life.

"First," he said, "we must accept ourselves and make use of the tools given us — no matter how dull they may be. In this manner, we master the length of life.

"By accepting and loving our neighbor, we move toward mastering the breadth of life. And to complete the triangle, which is nothing without the final element, we must love God.

"Somehow we have paid lip service to God and not life service.

"Modern man has become so concerned about material things he unconsciously has forgotten about God. Man has become so wrapped up in his inventions he has forgotten about God.

"Man marvels at the skyscraper standing tall. I show you the beautiful mountain that kisses the sky . . . made not with the hands of men.

"Reach up. Reach up, and discover God for the complete life."

Dr. King, emphasizing why we are interdependent rather than independent, pointed out that we get towels from Turkey, tea from China and diamonds from Africa.

"If we are to live the complete life, it must be three dimensional. We must love ourselves. We must love our neighbors. And we must love God," concluding:

"We must live together as brothers or perish as fools."

We who remember Martin Luther King, Jr., the man, also remember the legacy he left behind.

Page Opposite

Kweisi
Mfume

Member of Congress
Seventh District
Maryland

A year's end ...and beginning

I have always resisted the common urge to look back on a closing year in an attempt to give it a neat, sanitized label, such as "that was a tough year," or "that was a good year."

Maybe my reluctance to make such broad statements stems from my position as a legislator, who daily tastes both victory and defeat and who hardly has time to keep a scorecard. Or maybe as we get older we begin to see life in broader perspectives and develop more of an appreciation for the ebb and flow, up and down rhythm of its constant challenges.

In a much larger sense, though, every year is a good year as long as we are blessed with life, freedom and hope.

The past year has been particularly interesting for me. Twelve short months ago, I began my first term in the U.S. Congress as Baltimore's new Seventh District Representative. Armed with the mandate of my constituents, and my own deep rooted commitment to make a difference, I have participated in a most productive and challenging first session in the 100th Congress.

The last week of the session, which officially ended the Tuesday before Christmas, was consumed by work on two deficit reduction bills which will appropriate some $598 billion to keep the government running and includes a tax increase of $9 billion.

This hotly debated deficit reduction package will reduce the federal deficit by $33.2 billion in fiscal year 1988 and $79 billion over the next two years. The bills were signed by President Reagan on the brink of a deadline which could have resulted in a shutdown of government operations.

While I understood the need to fashion a deficit reduction package to set this nation's economic ship back on course, I objected vehemently to several important provisions affecting funding for the Nicaraguan contras and an increase in premium payments for Medicare recipients.

After pouring millions of dollars into the Nicaraguan civil war in support of the contras, I believe we must stop putting our hopes into achieving a military victory and allow the Central American peace process a chance to succeed. Millions of Central Americans and freedom loving people all over the world support that view, and I could not go along with yet another multimillion dollar installment on a flawed and increasingly unpopular policy.

And I voted against the reconciliation bill, which included the $9 billion tax increase, due to what I consider an unconscionable 50 percent increase in Medicare Part B premiums in fiscal year 1988. Senior citizens, many of whom are on fixed incomes, should not be asked to shoulder such a huge increase. There are better ways to reduce the deficit than on the backs of seniors.

Overturning both the continuing support for the contras and the insensitive attack on America's senior citizens through unreasonably high increases in Medicare premiums will be at the top of my legislative priority list in 1988.

But there were some victories.

At the close of the session, the Senate finally passed the nation's first new housing bill in over seven years. The measure, previously passed by the House, now awaits the President's signature to become law.

The importance of this hard fought victory cannot be minimized. The bill authorizes new and existing housing initiatives, including $15 billion for housing and community development in fiscal 1988 and $15.6 billion in fiscal 1989.

It also provides $3 billion for Community Development Block Grants and $255 million for Urban Development Action Grants-two programs that have been particularly crucial to Baltimore's growth. The bill also includes $25 million for fiscal year 1988 and $100 million for fiscal year 1989 for the new Nehemiah program designed to help moderate-income families purchase homes.

While there still are many more battles ahead, I look forward with hope and optimism to 1988. And I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and involvement during 1987.

Best wishes for a prosperous and happy new year!

AFRO SURVEY

Michelle Brieve

Stephanie Gladden

Tonja Alexander

Maria Forouzeshi

How are you coping with the cold?

This week's question to the man on the street was: How are you coping with the cold weather?

Michelle Brieve, 20, student. "I am just trying to stay inside. I don't walk so much right now."

Stephanie Gladden, 30, cashier. "Fine. I have a coat that weighs about five pounds, an old Army coat my father gave me. Plus, I like cold weather. Also with my coat and black derby, everything's perfect."

Tonja Alexander, 18, sales. "By staying warm, trying to at least. I put on a lot of clothes. I stay in the house a lot."

Maria Forouzeshi, 35, sales. "By bundling up. I think I'm dealing with it pretty good. My car started, anyway. Cuddling up at night saves fuel bills."

Fredrika Grant, 39, assistant manager. "Believe it, or not, I'm enjoying it. It is my first real winter in 20 years. It's better than the smog. I just have to get use to bundling up again."

Andrea Janko, 22, sales. "By crying — I'm using this to get prepared to go to Germany, not very well, though. I wear flannel PJs now. And I'm staying on the move."

Tia Thompson, 30, sales. "I really haven't given it any thought. I guess dressing warmly. It hasn't affected me that much. It's going to affect my heating bill, though."

Minda Yatt, 25, hotel sales manager. "I don't like it. I have to still go out, so I just suffer being cold."

Fredrika Grant

Andrea Janko

Tia Thompson

Minda Yatt

Political Consultant
Anthony
Armstrong

War stories tell the tales

These are all very complicated questions, and it will be considerable time, yet, before America really does fully understand its own feelings about a particularly important phase of its history. No one can blame a nation for wanting to ask the most far reaching questions about itself, after an involvement like what Vietnam must have been over there, and what I know it was here at home. However, not all the issues with "Vietnam" written on them are worthy of our national, state-wide, or local soul searching.

A stone monument in Baltimore is one.

I've read the accounts and talked to people on the subject, but no one has yet been able to say why the Vietnam memorial shouldn't be located on Baltimore's Federal Hill.

I've heard all the reasons. The ground is too soft for the heavy memorial. The site is, and has been, associated solely with America's Civil War heritage. The view to the harbor would be obstructed; the traffic, the noise, the trash and bottles, the wonderful character of the area that cannot withstand too much modern tinkering. The reasons for the on-again, off-again saga of the memorial says something, but only those offering the reasons really know their real motivations.

Something is for certain, though; the feelings about the Vietnam memorial and its location, on Federal Hill, are the feelings about a "police action" we just can't seem to come to any grips with. As soon as it seems we've opened up about the pain of Vietnam, a statue comes along to remind us that we really haven't dealt very well with the questions at all.

Would you want a statue in memory of a war you lost? Further, would you want a memorial to all the atrocities, to the burning, the killing of innocent civilians, the killing of the myth of American military superiority?

Do you want to start a practice of honoring failure? Was it a bad war, or was it a case where we failed to win? America fought well in Southeast Asia, American fought well in Southeast Asia, or did we?

These are questions we've heard before and it's taken an effort to honor some deserving men and women with a memorial that has brought them all front and center again.

Baltimore used to be known as the city of monuments; we've erected them for all kinds of reasons. George Washington his (the first national monument built to "the father of the country"), Clara Barton her's, Columbus his, Pulaski his, and, it seems, anyone else who ever did anything notable.

No Vietnam memorial, however. It has to do with the ground being soft, or something.

Fact is, if the war we Americans don't like Vietnam - the thought - remember, we won every battle of the war. It was a war we lost, and in losing America finally and truly lost our innocence. Many of us don't want to reward anything that hurt us so much.

By watching the looks on the faces of those returned from that hell, we see ourselves. We just can't take it; a memorial would do too much to remember. Why do it, why certify the experience - why bother to trouble ourselves with all those battles won, but war lost?

We need that memorial - to our greatness and, yes, to our folly too. We need it to make the statement that we honor the men who served and died; and also to remind ourselves that if the war was lost, it was lost as much in the streets of Chicago, Los Angeles, even Baltimore, as in the underground tunnels of Vietnam. The statue won't hurt us; it will only tell us war stories.

Samuel
Banks

Educator

Imperatives for blacks in '88

Whatever our thoughts concerning 1987, individually and collectively, we must now put them aside and plan and act for the multifarious, demanding and challenging opportunities for 1988 and beyond. It is in this hopeful and vibrant sense that I extend kindest personal best wishes for a New Year rich in promise, fulfillment and purposeful action.

The time is clearly at hand for us as black Americans to cease whining and complaining, studied equivocation and making desultory promises about securing full freedom, human dignity and power in the land of our birth.

Stated differently, we must cease to lament what the majority white society will or why not let us do as people because of the historic, persistent and pervasive condition of institutional and operational racism.

Rather, as citizens of the United States, we must use all of the levers of power within the educational, economic, cultural and political spheres to make ourselves whole and, above all, in the proud and remarkable history of our people, push forward and upward.

As we embark on a new year, I offer 11 categorical imperatives that I beleive are urgent and necessary for our physical and psychological wholeness and progress as a people. I challenge you, if you are serious, about progress and equality of opportunity, to give them a try.

Work to rejuvenate and revitalize the immortal and magnificent dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Demonstrable educational excellence for our children and youths.

Hold elected officials accountable and responsible.

Forswear drugs and substance abuse in our communities.

Love and take pride in our historical roots.

Next month our nation and much of the world community will commemorate the 73rd anniversary of Black History Month begun by the extraordinary father of Black History, Dr. Carter Goodwin Woodson.

Dr. Woodson believed that no people could take pride in itself unless it knew its history. Why not get a jump on Black History Month by reading *The Baltimore Afro-American* on a regular and consistent manner and check out, before the rush start, significant books on our history.

For starters, I highly recommend Chu and Skinner, "Glorious Age in Africa," Philip Durham, "Black Cowboys," James Baldwin, "Nobody Knows My Name" and "Fire Next Time," W. E. B. DuBois, "Souls of Black Folk," Benjamin Quarles, "The Negro in the Making of America" and John Hope Franklin, "From Slavery to Freedom" (latest edition) and "George Washington Williams."

The National Executive Council of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, founded by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson in 1915, has set the national Black History Month Theme as "The Constitutional Status of Afro-Americans into the Twenty-First Century."

Set moral and ethical standards for yourself and children.

If we want our children to model and emulate appropriate and positive behavior, then, we must exemplify in our conduct at home and throughout the community qualities of decency, honesty, wholesomeness and decorum.

Work for a sense of community.

Respect each other.

Each of us is of immeasurable worth and value. We must work, day in and day out, to put belief into concrete deed. Aretha Franklin, in her masterful song, sets a direction we need to follow and practice: "Just a Little Bit of R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Be informed about local, state, national and international issues.

Make it a point to read, in addition, to the Baltimore Afro-American, as a minimum, one other paper daily.

Seek spiritual reinforcement through church, religious or institutional affiliations involved in helping others.

Share your views and thoughts with a larger public.

Write your first letter, if you have not done so in the past, to the editor of a paper on a subject of interest to you.

JAN 1988