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Editorial Page

The Afro-American

JANUARY 23, 1988

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

John H. Murphy
1840-1922

'The Greek' mis-speaks

Was Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder speaking solely for himself, or was he reciting the thoughts of the masses when he made his racist remarks last week?

Before anyone jumps to answer that question, it must be remembered that Snyder is not some out of touch dreamer, but a man who makes his living off his knowledge of what is going on.

He spends much of his time in contact with men and women from across the country, and his income and fame are derived from his ability to quote the "bottom line" on odds for any sporting event.

We think the "bottom line" he quoted last week, when he said slaves were bred for competition and that blacks could run whites out of the coaching ranks, is a sentiment echoed, but unspoken, by many whites.

They are still living in a parochial past, when the color of a man's skin was an immediate indictment against that man and his abilities.

CBS acted promptly and correctly in firing Snyder. But we ask one question. If every white, with sentiments such as Snyder's, was fired from whatever position of responsibility they hold, would anyone be left to mind the store?

As one politician once put it, one cannot legislate the human heart. Feelings of racial superiority and exclusivity cannot be abolished with a stroke of a pen; and it sometimes takes centuries to erase racial animosities and ignorance.

But as our children grow to maturity in the nation's first legally integrated society, we wonder if the laws are sufficient to hold back the tide of thoughts as exemplified by men such as "The Greek."

Volunteer for history

Volunteers are needed to work on the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture. The commission, founded in part by former state Sen. Verda Welcome decades ago, works to foster the knowledge and appreciation of the contributions made to our society by black Americans.

Two commission vacancies will be available by June of this year.

To paraphrase the late Malcolm X, a race without history is indeed a tree without roots. We urge interested citizens to join the commission, and work to ensure the survival of our history for generations to come.

Save Dunbar SS office

For many older Americans, their only link with the confusing maze of federal bureaucracy is their local Social Security office.

But residents of the Dunbar area may soon be deprived of their local branch of the Social Security Administration. Plans are underway to consolidate the office with one several blocks away — in another part of town.

We urge the SSA to reconsider its decision. In an age where the number of senior citizens is growing every day, why should we begin cutting back on services to these people?

Our Readers Write

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

Re: Sex Education

The primary right to educate resides with parents, and no government or constitution can abrogate that right.

Sex education of our children was usurped from parents by the state over 30 years ago and the morals of our children have been going down hill ever since, The reason for this is that in their sex education classes the public schools teach our children that promiscuity is a good that should be sought after.

This kind of propaganda demoralizes our youth and causes the acceleration of the AIDS plague. When are parents going to demand that the state return sex education of their children to them on whom it was bestowed by the Creator?

This program "Family Planning, the next five years-including health clinics" (sounds like something out of Moscow) which is now before the state legislators for consideration would be a giant step toward establishing the all powerful state, that would control our every activity from the cradle to the grave and we would live only as long as we remain in the good graces of the state.

The unborn today! Tomorrow you and I!

The eugenists of Planned Parenthood, who are mirror images of the Nazis of World War II, have set the year 2000 as their goal to establish the defied state and they are ahead of schedule. Governor Schaefer, I know you are a pragmatic politician who goes the way the most pressure pushes you but if you care at all for the people-throw these satanic helpers out and their programs with them.

An outraged grandfather of eight angels and veteran of World War II.

CORNELIUS U. MORGAN
Baltimore

Taylor for Congress

I have decided to seek the nomination of the Democratic Party in the March 8, 1988 primary election for the Congress of the United States in the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland.

I plan to make the following issues the basis of my own campaign for the seat over the next year:

- The crisis in public health:

AIDS is sweeping the country as a disease on an unprecedented scale, one that is near-Biblical in its depth, breadth ans scope. The creation of an AIDS institute at the Johns Hopkins Hospital is a first step in the right direction, but more work is needed to safeguard us all.

- The crisis in the stock market on Wall Street:

The real meaning of the catastrophic crash on Oct. 19, 1987 has been largely ignored by our leaders of both parties, and its import glossed over with well-meaning phrases and illusions.

- Planning for a full employment economy:

I think it's deplorable that the best we can offer our blue collar workers is a reduced earning scale, our white collar workforce deadend paper-shuffling jobs and our young people minimum wage positions at fast-food restaurants as their future.

- Repeal of the Hatch Act.

Why should Federal employees be forbidden to run for public office or otherwise participate in politics?

- An international treaty against terrorism.

The recent US-USSR arms limitation treaty was a step in the right direction and one long overdue, Now, another is needed among the major world powers to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to nations not now possessing them as well as to combat worldwide terrorism.

- The spread of war in both the Persian Gulf and in Central America must be monitored very carefully.

- Glasnost aside, we must also remember that the Soviet Union is a brutally repressive society with an army of conquest still afield in war-torn Afghanistan, a military adventure now in its second decade.

BLAINE TAYLOR
Baltimore

HODGE-PODGE

By Jack L. Hodge

Assistant to the Publisher

Jimmy 'the Greek' tried to hard

Kyung Won Lee came to this country in 1950, a refugee from Korea. He had served time in the Japanese navy, not by choice. He had been forced into conscription by the conquerers of his homeland.

Kyung Won Lee deserted, or fled, the Japanese military. An ambitious youngster, he made his way to the United Staes and West Virginia University to study journalism. His one burning desire, at the time, was to return to Korea and become press secretary to President Rhee.

Neither was to be. He did, however, become a respected journalist. In fact, he won a National Headliner Award while a reporter for a Sacramento, Calif., paper. The last I heard he owned his own newspaper.

When Kyung Won Lee came to West Virginia, he spoke very little English. There were those who decided to help him with his language. What these self-appointed do-gooders taught Kyung Won Lee, however, was to use words which were not accepted in polite society.

And an unsuspecting Kyung Won Lee often blurted out words which were no-nos, much to his embarrassment. Such "jokes" spurred Kyung Won Lee to master the English language.

Another thing Kyung Won Lee was led to believe, mostly by what he read in the sports pages and what he saw at Mountaineer Field, or gleaned from conversations, blacks were super athletes.

The few black athletes competing against white athletes often stood out like a "sore thumb," just as I often did while covering a football game from the press box or sidelines at Mountaineer Field.

The accomplishments of a Jimmy Brown or a Lenny Moore often appeared bigger than life, mainly because colored athletes competing against white athletes were not the norm.

Then, there was a young woman I met later in life who taught blacks had superhuman powers — they can run faster than whites because they are built that way.

She had been led to believe that I, just because of my race, could run fast. She had no explanation. She had been told it was so. And she believed.

While listening to the playoff game between the Washington Redskins and the Minnesota Vikings one of the CBS announcers often referred to Redskins quarterback Doug Williams' size.

On one occasion, this particular radio announcer mentioned he has seen Williams "from the back" the day before and "thought he (Williams) was a tight end." He then mentioned that Williams is a big guy, 6-feet, four, weighing 220 pounds.

A cursory check will reveal that pro quarterbacks are big men. Tall men. First, pro quarterbacks need to be big men because they are competing against other big men. They need to be tall so they can spot pass receivers.

When it comes to black people, white folks often have a warped sensitivity and one-track thinking.

For instance, I was a part-time employee at a now defunct Washington daily. I was encouraged to follow others who refused to use the trash cans to deposit waste paper. The reasoning: If we put all of the paper in the trash can, fewer people would be needed in the clean-up crew.

And you know who were in the clean-up crew.

When it comes to black folk, the way white folks think has changed little; if any, in the last 30 years.

For instance, blacks riot; whites participate in a disturbance.

Blacks are the last hired, the first fired.

How many blacks are chief executive officers of major firms? How many blacks are editors of daily newspapers? How many blacks are network anchors.

I mention all of this because of the flap and firing of Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder.

Much of what he said has been said before, sometimes in jest and sometimes as the gospel.

It is true, blacks were bred by slavemasters — the same as they bred their animals, — to produce a better product for a specific job. And the slavemaster had need of field hands, the stronger the better, and house n . . . gers.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, for some reason, felt the need to state that it is not a scientific fact that blacks are good athletes because of the breeding carried on during slavery.

"The Greek" admits that he's in trouble, that bouncing back won't be easy. But I do believe him when he said he was paying black athletes a compliment. He was trying so hard that his foot just got stuck in his mouth.

I think what really got him fired, however, was not so much what he said about blacks and their inherit genes but the prediction of what will or could happen if equal opportunity employment is allowed to progress to its logical course.

The very idea that a white man had the audacity to say, for public consumption, that if blacks also were hired as coaches there would be no place left for whites.

Those are frightening words — especially when you consider the many whites who are on top just because they are white. Or for that matter, the number of whites who were hired, not on the basis of merit, but on race alone.

There was a time when even in this city, agencies identified blacks as No. 2 and Whites as No. 1. Why do you think blacks were assigned No. 2, as opposed to No. 1?

The idea, for those who still do not believe there is racism and segregation, whites continue to daily tell you or suggest that white is right.

The good guys wear white; the bad guys wear black. White is pure; black is evil.

"Black is beautiful" managed to raise the pride and consciousness of black Americans for a while, but we let smark-aleck blacks convince us that the good guys wear white hats.

Page Opposite

Kweisi
Mfume
Member of Congress
Seventh District
Maryland

Home heating help available

The "hawk" arrived earlier this month—with a vengeance.

The hawk, of course, is winter's formidable bitter-cold breeze that whips up teeth-rattling wind chill factors and high heating bills.

While, for many, its annual visit to Baltimore is but a brief, shivering inconvenience; for others, particularly our elderly and low-income citizens, it is the beginning of a fierce wintry battle which has on occasion wrecked havoc on the health and economic welfare of its victims, and at its worse, even caused death.

Fortunately, there are a number of energy assistance programs in Maryland to help those in need to survive this wintry assault.

The Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), under the Department of Human Resources, offers a full range of heating assistance services for eligible families, renters (including roomers and boarders), and homeowners.

Along with MEAP, there is the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP.

WAP services such as weather stripping, caulking, plastic window covering, storm windows, storm doors, etc., to help make your home more fuel efficient and comfortable at no cost to eligible families.

Also the Winter Heating Protection Program (WHPP). It allows participating MEAP eligible households to pay a lower amount each month on their utility bill and not have their service cut off. However, (WHPP) households must make arrangements to pay off the balance due, beginning in April.

There is also the Energy Conservation Counseling Program, which offers counseling to families experiencing difficulty with their home heating bills.

You would probably qualify for these programs if you are elderly, disabled, unemployed, forced to live on a small or fixed income, currently receiving public assistance Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or food stamps, and if you receive certain veterans or Social Security disability benefits.

MEAP is administered by the Urban Services Agency which has many convenient offices throughout the Baltimore area. For further information, and to find the location of the office nearest you, call 396-5555.

The Baltimore Fuel Fund, Inc., also plays a major role in assisting individuals combat high heating costs.

Established in 1979 through the combined efforts of then Councilwoman Victorine Q. Adams, the City of Baltimore, church leaders and the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, the Fuel Fund offers help to low income individuals after they have exhausted state aid.

Customers who are eligible for Maryland Energy Assistance are automatically eligible to receive help from the Fuel Fund. This assistance is provided once a year. Baltimore City residents should call 361-2290 for further information. Those residing in Baltimore County should call 285-4674.

MEAP and the Baltimore Fuel Fund are just two of the many energy assistance programs available to qualifying residents throughout the Baltimore area. Other programs offered through such groups as Associated Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army and local churches demonstrate that Baltimore is, indeed, a city that cares for its people.

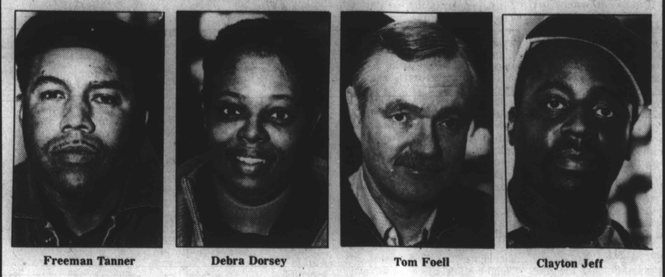
Being conscious of steps that we can take at home to help minimize our heating costs is also important.

These include opening and closing doors and windows as little as possible, pasting paper over cracks on inside walls, putting caulking in cracks around doors and windows and tacking plastic over windows.

MEAP also advises setting your heating temperature back to 60 degrees at night.

The extreme weather conditions have already been responsible for two deaths that we know of, thus far. Therefore, I strongly urge all of you to take precautions, both indoors and out to protect yourselves and your families, and by all means to take advantage of the programs that are made available to you.

AFRO SURVEY



Freeman Tanner — Debra Dorsey — Tom Foell — Clayton Jeff

Reacting to Jimmy 'the Greek'

This week's question to the man on the street, asked at the Lexington Market, was: What are your reactions to comments by Jimmy "The Greek Snyder which led to his firing by CBS Sports?

Freeman Tanner, 51, machine operator: "I don't think he really meant what he said. He gave blacks a compliment. It's just that he didn't say it quite right."

Debra Dorsey, 32, nurse. "Well, I don't think firing him was the answer. A lot of whites have the same feelings. I think we as blacks have to get together and live King's dream. It will solve the problem. Everybody has freedom of speech."

Tom Foell, 51, retail meat merchant. "I don't know if what he said is fact. I've never heard that expressed before. I go along with Jesse Jackson, that it was an over reaction by the network."

Clayton Jeff, 29, porter. "I feel that he doesn't have the right to say things like that. We've come a long way trying to fulfill a dream that we have had for a while now. He should have been fired."

Chuck Rice, 43, MTA. "I feel he made a stupid comment. But I feel we've come to the point we can overlook some things. Given his age, and other factors, I feel he can be forgiven."

Helen Mitchell, 42, sales. He shouldn't have been fired for what he said. Everybody has made remarks similar to those."

Julia Martin, 26, sales. "I think what the man said was idiotic. If he felt that way, which I happen to disagree, I think it was completely irresponsible for him to voice his opinion. I feel it is a setback for sports journalists."

Eddie Applefield, 40, public relations. "I honestly feel that he did not necessarily mean what he said. He was quick to say it, and quick to apologize. According to his coworker, Irv Cross, he has never shown any prejudices. He is entitled to his opinion, but a man in his position shouldn't editorialize."

Chuck Rice — Helen Mitchell — Eddie Applefield — Julia Martin

Samuel
Banks
Educator

The burdens of race, class

Throughout the long history of our nation, the twin-factors of race and class have been omnipresent, decisive and debilitating.

The colonists who settled the original thirteen colonies, beginning with Jamestown, VA., in 1607 and concluding with Georgia in 1733, had come primarily to escape religious, political and economic oppression and supression in Europe.

Social class became a powerful and pervasive determinant in terms of which white Europeans achieved vertical mobility and power.

It is ironic that the groups which fled Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries to escape socio - economic, political and religious persecution and exclusion from the European mainstream, used their influence and power to put native Americans, black persons and Hispanic or Spanish surnamed people in a position of institutional subordination, oppression and suppression.

The ubiquitous factor of race or skin color proved far more significant than social class.

Over 40 million black Americans in our nation are in a position of institutional subordination and economic marginality because of the clear and present factor of our high visibility. The factor of economic impotence or non-affluence which afflicts so many black Americans simply exacerbates the situation.

It was this condition that Dr. William Edward Burghardt DuBois, a titan in American and world letters, had in mind when he wrote in his classic work, "Souls of Black Folks" over 88 years ago:

"One ever feels his twoness — an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder."

While the factors of education, hard work and personal drive and ambition have made it possible for the preponderant number of white Americans to achieve success, family stability and competitive jobs, the racial twoness in our nation, coupled with longstanding educational and socio-economic inequalities, has constricted and restricted the full advancement of most black Americans.

This lamentable and troubling situation that John E. Jacob, president of the National League, addrssed recently in "The State of Black America," and Bert Landry, professor of sociology at the University of Maryland College Park Campus, depicts in "The New Black Middle Class" represents the chief encubrance to black empowerment.

For a people who endured the heinousness and debasement of slavery, I am convinced, if we keep our collective faith and do not weary of well-doing, that we shall endure and surpass our ancient foe — institutional and operational racism.

The key to our breakout in our quest for parity, power and human dignity must be the vehicle of education.

Brain power, steadiness under pressure, high personal esteem, love and support of family, firm reliance on God and a zesty and relentless desire to "keep on keeping on" will be the pivotal elements necessary for our empowerment, stability and happiness.

We must not, at this late juncture in our collective history, capitulate to despair, hopelessness and self-doubt.

The start of the 73rd national observance of Black History Month in February provides a marvelous opportunity to become better acquainted with our remarkable ancestors, resiliency and history.

Take time to read a minimum of one book on black life and history and the black history supplements which will appear in the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN and other papers. Pride, too, is an important ingredient helpful in confronting and surpassing the negative and invidious elements inherent in race and class distinctions.

The time is now at hand, given the prevailing Zeitgeist (i.e., spirit of the times), when we must quit blaming others for things we can do for ourselves. In this spirit, I challenge you to pro-act and not react to changing times, challenges and opportunities.

Political Consultant
Anthony Armstrong

Corporate day care

Although we've all heard the statistics before, it's still somewhat strange for anyone over the age of thirty to learn that more than fifty percent of American women of child-bearing age work outside their homes.

It's strange because so many of us still remember the days when most of the women-folk spent their time at home, cooking the meals, hanging the just-washed laundry out to dry, and being there when the kids got home from school.

In those days papa left the house every morning, to go to work; and mom, well, mom was synonymous with everything else that was good, as long as it was at home.

Things have changed, and now mothers - and not just poor, single parents but the well off, educated too - are rushing to catch the 7:05 train, forgetting their Tupperware lunch boxes, donning foot gear against street grates, and bringing home pay checks.

The changing make-up of American social and family life has become far more than that of the American women than it ever was; and the, "this is a man's world" attitude of past generations has had to share its prominence with, "you've come a long way baby". Economically, women have always enjoyed great influence, simply because they have traditionally shared the buying decisions that determine the health of so much of the American economy. Now that those same women are, in addition to their influence, actually earning so much of the money that is being spent, their economic decision making, and thus their overall power, can only grow.

Even with all the social, domestic, and economic change that has come to American women, their political muscle has remained relatively soft; and this in a group that, all toll, is the majority of the total pupulation. Probably the single biggest reason for this lag is women themselves. Politices is still a new game to most American women, except for the act of voting. Many political professionals attribute the relative lack of actual political power to the seeming inability of women to come together around specific interests, to make their voting strength work as a block. There is no more glaring example of this splintering of power than the issue of day care.

Day care in America is on its way to becoming one of the two or three most important issues this country will face in the 1990's. Astute politicians know this, but their reactions to the realization are going to be measured in direct proportion to the level of collective pressure women exert, for solutions to the day care crisis. To use a phrase from American business, day care is now "in-play". What will the country, and especially its women, do about day care? What will, what should - local, state and federal - do about day care? What will America's corporations do, what should those corporations do about day care? How do we pay the billion dollar tabs this issue will require; who should pay it, and what should we expect for our money?

Day care is a little bit like the issue of police protection - it simply has to be provided. Nobody has to tell American women that, but beyond agreement on the need for day care little else is clear. Yet, the potential solutions are plentiful. We know this from watching the success enjoyed by a number of countries, especially those in Scandinavia. Although America's needs will be filled in American ways, we can borrow liberally from the Swedes, the Danes, and the Swiss. In countries like China, with its almost unimaginably large population of day care age children, and Japan, a nation where most women still work primarily in the home, the challenges of providing day care have been met with universally positive answers.

Sharing the responsibility will be key to solving America's day care problems. The situation presents this country with a wonderful opportunity to do something good, that will have an effect on everyone, not just families that have small children. In the America of the past it was nothing strange - in fact it was quite the norm - for women to band together to take care of the children. That same sharing, again, offers the best broad solution to the problem of who will care for the children. Though, much has changed in America, I dare say that the idea of shared caring has not. We only need to revive it.

Suppose the working mothers of day care age children got together and agreed to contribute one hour per week of their earnings to a pool that would be used to partially fund the cost of day care. They wouldn't have to contribute to the pool in cash; but, instead, through a system where each woman would agree to work one extra hour, letting that hour's wage go into the day care pool. Funding from this source alone could be massive. Add to that the contributions - either dollars or in-kind services - from effected corporations and the revenue base grows even larger. The government could round out the trilogy by providing the legislation and any dollar shortfall needed to give such a system permanent viability. To raise the salaries of day care professional to the levels needed to attract the best people, parents could volunteer much of the administrative and support systems time that would be required, leaving the professionals free to work almost exclusively at providing the children with the best possible learning programs.

Now that the money would be there, the next problem would be space. Providing America's children with the best day care is going to require a lot of space, but that space is usually already available in the office buildings and public agencies where so many of America's women now work. Why not use it, much the way some enlightened governments and corporations now do? Surely, a number of laws and regulations would have to be changed, but they're going to be changed anyway if we are going to meet this opportunity. I'm convinced that the will to address the day care crisis is rapidly growing.

JAN 1988