John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board Publisher
Frances M. Draper
President

Editorial Page

The Afro-American

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

John H. Murphy
1840-1922

Let's fight crime

Each day we seem to hear news of yet another gruesome crime committed against our women. Police have determined that there may be a possible link in the series of seemingly senseless stabbings which have plagued our neighborhoods recently.

The incidents should serve to make us think twice about our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, and the possible terror which awaits them on the streets.

We do not know who is to blame for the series of slayings, but we all can do our part to make the streets a little safer for our loved ones.

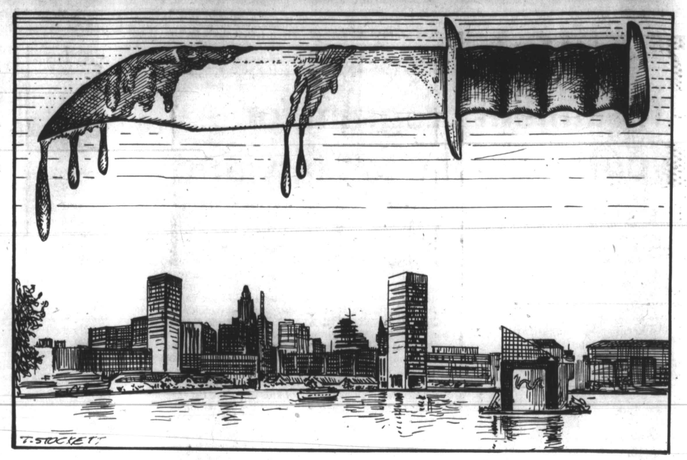
For example, the citizens of Reservoir Hill, in the wake of the tragic slashing of La-Tonya Wallace, are mounting patrols of their community.

The police are combing the streets, and a special detail has been empowered to stem the rash of slayings. Although many in our community have a distrust of the police, it must be acknowledged that they are here to serve us. We can work with them to make our neighborhoods safer.

We also have it within our power to do our part. For the men in the reading public, take a few moments to ascertain the whereabouts of your loved ones. Be a gentleman when it comes to looking out for the women in your community, and keep an eye out for suspicious - looking individuals.

Police say women can do their part by varying their schedules, calling to let people know where they are at, and traveling in groups at night.

No, it is not time to cower indoors. But it is high time we took back our community from those who prey on the weaker sex.



School shot down

The people have spoken. Despite high-powered lobbying by the Schaefer administration, members of Maryland's Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee voted overwhelmingly to kill plans for a math-science Mecca.

Last week the AFRO asked some pointed questions about the plan. Apparently many of Maryland's legislators had the same questions.

Of what use is such a school, if the state suffers from such problems as high drop out rates, student absenteeism, and a general education lethargy?

Why create one palace of education, while allowing scattered shanties of acaemic misery to exist?

Why hope that Gov. Schaefer grows from this experience, and devotes himself and his administration to doing what he failed to do here in Baltimore — expand the governmental commitment to quality education for all residents of his jurisdiction.

Wouldn't it be preferable to have a statewide network of quality schools instead of a single institution of quality? Wouldn't it make better sense for the state to work to improve all of its schools instead of pouring its largesse into a single institutions?

We say yes, and a number of Maryland's legislators said yes, too.

Our schools are threatened

By F. Gregory Newton

Prior to the Civil Rights Movement a denial to black Americans (of an equal access to employment and education) was common-place in the American culture. The results was that blacks were relegated to service employment, such as waiting tables, shining shoes, and redcapping.

They were also allowed to teach at black schools. These jobs were beneath the dignity of the white populace at that time.

Thus, blacks were at least secure in their insecurity, in that they were allowed to hold the servitude types of employment and to teach.

Then three things happened in America. First, the Supreme Court case of "Brown vs The Topeka Board Of Education" led to the "1954 School Desegregation Law." Second, the "Civil Rights Movement" began.

Third, many of the large corporations moved their factories to foreign countries, where the labor was cheap, and the mother country lost much of her industry and became a "service culture."

The result of all this was that black Americans became more competitive with white Americans for jobs and education; while the culture, due to the relocation of its industry overseas, began to decline economically.

The loss of those job opportunities which white enjoyed and the increased number of educated and demanding blacks caused the white populace to feel insecure and threatened economically, with a decrease in white employment.

Suddenly, those menial jobs which whites had relegated to blacks seemed not so repulsive to white Americans.

The first jobs formerly held by blacks which were taken over by whites were the "waiting" jobs. Thus, today it is almost easier for blacks to become President of the United States than it is for them to secure "waiters" jobs in the better houses.

This encroachment upon the territories of non-whites when it suits the self-interests of whites is not new, however. Witness the American Indian, whose land was taken, and who was then relegated to waste-lands called "reservations;" only to have those "wastelands" taken over by whites when they decided to stretch out or to partake of the natural resources of those wastelands.

Now, with the American economy failing, whites, who were the first in exploitation and plenty, do not now wish to be the first in poverty.

With the take-over of the waiting profession, and since all the shoes have been shined and train stations no longer have a demand for "red-caps," the white populace has turned its attention to the jobs now being held by black teachers.

It is not simply a coincidence, therefore, that suddenly black colleges, high schools and teachers have come under severe and threatening attacks by the white populace.

The obvious strategy, it appears is to set the black educational institutions and teachers up for a justifiable take-over by that opposing white culture.

Witness recent events which give evidence to that strategy: (a) On April 9, 1987 U.S. District Judge, Richard D. Rogers, ruled that the "Brown vs Topeka Board Of Education" case was now closed since, he felt, there was no longer a need to enforce school integration laws. But since it meant that schools would now be free to re-segregate, many black leaders are appealing that ruling.

(b) Witness: On November 4, 1987, it was claimed by a "National Teacher Examination" official that "blacks who attended predominantly black colleges during the past two years were more likely to fail a national teacher certification test than whites who went to the same colleges, or blacks who attended majority-white schools."

This claim has racist and self-serving overtones, in that it condemns blacks no matter what type of schools they attend, and infers, therefore, that blacks are less intelligent than whites.

The fallacy here is that whites have discredited themselves in their judgements of blacks; for it is they who control the make-up and administering of those standardized tests; and it is they who control the grading of those tests.

Likewise, those taking such tests are not permitted to see their examinations.

In a word, they are denied the right to be assured their grade is the correct one. yet, in all cases involving testing, the right to see one's test paper is a paramount democratic and guaranteed right.

The result of this denial is that black and other minority examinees are forced to takle the word of the white culture as to their "failures" on those examinations.

Such blacks are therefore at the will of those who have the sole possession of those tests.

Thus, the culture regulates the number of blacks to go on to higher education and to higher professions.

Now, suddenly, this system claims that blacks are not able to pass the exams it gives. The attempt, it seems, is to justify the culture's intention to give teaching jobs to whites which were once held by blacks.

The fact that these test scores might indeed be contrived was pointed to by the acting assistant dean at Morgan University's School Of Education And Urban Studies in a recent news articl, when he said: "How well the students at Morgan State University, or any other college have done on the NTE depends on the state's cut-off score, and the number of people who took the exam."

To be sure, the assault on black institutions of education occurs on all levels, as witnessed by the following:

(a) On May 14, 1986, a newspaper headline read: "SEEK WHITES, BLACK COLLEGES TOLD."

This article inferred that it is the fault of black colleges that white enrollment at those schools is low.

It ignored the fact that whites don't attend black colleges for the same reason that they don't attend black high schools — they don't want to integrate with blacks.

Yet, the system does not seem to mind racial segregation on the high school level. Obviously then, the system is setting up black colleges for a justification of its intention to stop funding black institutions of higher learning.

That article supported this contention in that it suggested that black colleges seek funding from private sources — not from the government.

(b) On November 21, 1987, it was reported that Pres. Ronald Reagan's secretary of education, William J. Bennett, has proposed that all colleges and technical institutes with a "Guaranteed Student Loan" default of 20 percent will be required to close.

Since it is predominantly black schools whose students are unable to repay such loans, due to discrimination in employment, it is these black institutions to whom this threat is directed.

And so, the question: Are black teachers and black institutions of higher learning becoming the "endangered species?"

Our Readers Write

Positive Pioneers

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

Dear Editor:

It is obvious, that existing practices, habits, and attitudes have not brought us as a people to where we want, need, and should be. We should not have to beg for assistance, economic or otherwise; we should be able to supply it, on our own for our own!

We, as a people, shouldn't have to ask or expect others to solve our problems. We should have ideas of our own, and take the actions necessary to save ourselves. Daily, we see others enter our community, establish themselves, "make out like bandits," profit off us and move on, taking our money with them while leaving us behind.

The root of our difficulties is how we are educated and therefore how we fashion our ideals.

"A man functions according to the degree of his understanding;" so consequently, how we are educated and what we are taught determine how and whether we limit or broaden our visions and aspirations.

Is it any wonder how and why graduates of traditional black colleges, make such great strides in and impressions upon the larger society? Is it any wonder why they have been and are now under attack by the larger society, intent on their demise?

Lack of useful education coupled with an over-abundance of mis-education has our youth high off illusions, that will and are killing them. They are speeding out of control down the broad low-way to self destruction.

We need Positive Pioneers, men and women who have their heads on straight.

We need leaders and role models in the community, to give directions and examples that will point our people and our youth up the scenic highway to bigger and better things.

Entrepreneurial ventures and economic independence are the vehicles to the realization of their and our fondest dreams.

In spite of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, success and advancement is within our reach, it is attainable. The youth must come to understand, "that obstacles are those seemingly terribly frightening things you see, if you take your eyes off your goals and dreams!"

"True education is the most important commodity we receive in life. Lack of true knowledge, or false education, can destroy individuals, societies, and nations." Look around at the limited aspirations and clouded vision of too many of our people.

President John F. Kennedy stated this simple, but profound observation and truth, "A child mis-educated is a child lost."

We as people and a community are in a struggle not just for advancement, but for our every survival.

The deterioration of our ideals, the lowering of our values, are prime indicators of that fact.

Drugs flood our streets; isn't it ironic though that the one product our own merchants have contributing to a Black community beset with a multitude of problems . . . We need them. They are fathers, brothers, sons, and lovers. They are mothers too. Many of them have valuable talents and many of them have sharp minds that could be put to positive use. We must not forget them." R. B. Jones—Bloodnotes in AFRO 4/12/86

The existence and advancement of us as a people within the society, hinges on how we are educated and how we in turn use what we learn. "No man is an Island," we each owe a responsibility to make the world a better place for the other.

It is up to the Positive Pioneers among us, to undertake the task to awaken and revive the Spirit and intellect and gather their combined forces for the character development and economic advancement necessary.

Positive Pioneers will point out the way past the frontiers, of fair, hesitancy, and hopelessness. They will privide the directions and models for the young, and the young at heart and mind, to free themselves of their confines!

Education will give our community, men and women of vision, courage, and conviction, who will by positive works pave the way to the future.

"The fate of empires depends on the education of youth;" ours certainly can depend no less on the positive education of our own!

MICHAEL GREEN
Baltimore, Md.

It's madness, to think we can afford to just write off, as a complete loss, a significant portion of a generation.

It is suicidal, to overlook so many of our young men and women in prison, and believe we can do better without them.

Especially when we hear so much of single parent families and marriage minded women who can't find men, how can we forget any of them?

I see so much raw material, on the street corners and in the prisons. I see potentials, both human and material, at a critical stage when they can be transformed into beneficial products and assets.

I realize where and how a vital part of our overall future will be determined.

I wonder how many Malcolm X's, Martin Luther King's, and Marcus Garvey's there are going to waste on the street corners and in the prisons, who could bloom in the right conditions, with the right care, and direction.

"The prison system must get special attention because so many of our young people are trapped there rather than contributing to a Black community beset with a multitude of problems . . . We need them. They are fathers, brothers, sons, and lovers. They are mothers too. Many of them have valuable talents and many of them have sharp minds that could be put to positive use. We must not forget them." R. B. Jones—Bloodnotes in AFRO 4/12/86

The existence and advancement of us as a people within the society, hinges on how we are educated and how we in turn use what we learn. "No man is an Island," we each owe a responsibility to make the world a better place for the other.

It is up to the Positive Pioneers among us, to undertake the task to awaken and revive the Spirit and intellect and gather their combined forces for the character development and economic advancement necessary.

Positive Pioneers will point out the way past the frontiers, of fair, hesitancy, and hopelessness. They will privide the directions and models for the young, and the young at heart and mind, to free themselves of their confines!

Education will give our community, men and women of vision, courage, and conviction, who will by positive works pave the way to the future.

"The fate of empires depends on the education of youth;" ours certainly can depend no less on the positive education of our own!

MICHAEL GREEN
Baltimore, Md.

Page Opposite

Kweisi
Mfume

Member of Congress
Seventh District
Maryland

The challenge of urban governance

In the 23 years since the passage of the federal Voting Rights Act, African Americans have made significant strides in the political arena. Much of the evidence is in City Halls throughout the country.

For example, in 1970, there were 48 black mayors whose combined constituents totaled one million people.

A generation after Alabama Governor George Wallace and Birmingham Public Safety Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor hailed themselves as defenders of segregation, and did all they could to keep African Americans disenfranchised, Alabama now has 30 black mayors, more than any other state.

And, yes, Birmingham itself is included in that total with Richard Arrington, Jr. having been reelected last fall for a third term.

Today, there are about 300 African American mayors representing 20 million citizens.

In addition to Baltimore, the cities comprising the list include Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Atlanta, New Orleans, Richmond , Washington, D.C., Detroit, and Chicago.

I am especially pleased that 20 percent of the Black women, governing cities such as Newport News, Virginia, Little Rock Arkansas, and hartford, Connecticut.

While their geographic locales and backgrounds may differ, the challenges faced by urban mayors of the 1980s bear important similarities.

In terms of economics, President Reagan has spent years wielding his budget cutting axe at cities. His fiscal year 1989 proposals — which include the elimination of Urban Development. Action Grants and mass transit operating subsidies, and broad cutbacks in spending on public works programs - would do even greater harm.

Diminished federal support, combined with a reduced tax base, has forced mayors to impose measures resulting in the curtailment of some public services.

Other commonalities, which at times seem to be converting the concrete of our cities into quicksand, include increasing and often violent crime, widespread use of illegal drugs, growing numbers of homeless families, and the development of a permanent "underclass."

With challenges such as these, today's African American mayors are finding that, unlike some of the mayoral "pioneers" of the late 1960s and 1970s, the symbolic gesture of having someone black in office is not enough in terms of meeting the electorate's expectations.

As a result, many of the recently elected city officials stress managerial skills and their abilities to build coalitions with the business community as necessary leadership tools.

According to Mayor Thomas Barnes of Gary,, Indiana, "We were allowed an extremely long honeymoon, and that won't happen anymore. We will be judged on performance, not hype."

William Davis of the National League of Cities further explains that, "This is not only a new generation but a group with a new, somewhat different agenda, one that is much more mainstream, much less oriented toward a specific segment of the community."

With its impressive Institute for Urban Research, Morgan State University is in the forefront of efforts to analyze the problems, concerns, and accomplishments of our nation's cities.

In the most recent of such endeavors, that took place just this week, Morgan State and the Joint Center for Political Studies hosted a conference entitled "Black Mayors and the Challenge of Urban Governance."

This timely and intellectually stimulating event provided an excellent opportunity to examine what had been learned from two decades of African American governance at the municipal level, how today's problems are being addressed, and what the expectations and prospects are for political leadership in the future.

George Wallace and "Bull" Connor could not have envisioned that such a conference would have been held in Baltimore or anywhere else during the 1980s.

Thus, in relative terms, the fact that it did occur points out not just how far we have come as a nation, but also how far we must go in meeting the challenge of governance.

AFRO SURVEY

Janet Sells

Shirley Brown

Martin Harrison

Dionne Buford

Is the series of slasher slayings related?

This week's question posed to the man and woman on the street was: "Do you think the recent series of stabbing murders are related?"

Janet Sells, 45, child care worker, "I think they're related. The murders seem to be so similar. I'm keeping my car locked, and someone always meets me when I get home. My girlfriends are doing the same."

Shirley Brown, 50, secretary, "I think it's all coincidental. People are just acting crazy, robbing people and other things. I'm taking precautions just in case. I don't go out alone at night. I also watch people."

Martin Harrison, 29, clerk, "It sounds like they're related. They were all women, and they were all killed with a knife."

Dionne Buford, 17, student, "I think they're related. It's just too much to be a coincidence. I always go out with someone. I never leave the house alone. I think you should always have a friend with you."

Treshawna Williams, 18, student, "I feel that they are all related . The person must be looking for a particular type of woman. If I were confronted by some crazy person, I would run and scream."

Amanda Jones, 17, student, "Yes, I do. There is something in common with each one. All of the victims were approximately the same age. I'm not taking any kind of abnormal precautions."

Jervel Gilbert, 24, cook, "I believe they could be related. It seems so strange to be back to back like that. I'm making sure someone is always with me. When I get off from work, someone is there to escort me."

Morris York, 36, crew leader, "I believe it's a coincidence. It's just too much happening all the time. I don't believe it could be the same person committing this crime. I think the women should carry something to protect themselves or walk in two or more."

Treshawna Williams

Amanda Jones

Jervel Gilbert

Morris York

Political Consultant

Anthony
Armstrong

Rich and clean

FROM the Sunshine drenched hill, she would start again to build something. This time she would not look back, and this time she would not take with her anything heavier than her baby and her brain.

There wasn't much thought about him. He and she had been reduced, purged; and the events of the last three years would now, in their own strange ways, become a primordial soup from which an entire people would construct a new life.

The cabal was designed to happen in an instant, but its planning sprang from seeds planted in 1945.

It jerked the human senses at the speed of sound, causing the mind to crackle like a rawhide whip.

In one quick motion the catapult threw him into that blazing hole. Raging higher than the trees around it, the jagged red blades of the conflagration caught his broken tied body in midair. A burning missile even before he disappeared into the ball of fire that blackened everything around it, as the flames rippled from their oily source, killing an ever widening circle of life.

The king was dead. He had died by his own invention, designed to catch his enemy in a defile dotted with 15 feet deep holes dug out of the Earth, and then covered with screens with dirt spread over them. He would lure his enemy with a faked retreat.

The enemy would follow, and when they did their troops would fall into his trap. From the ridges flanking the defile his archers would release their fire tipped arrows, igniting the flammable liquid that filled the holes - each a grave.

In the pitch of night he began his ruse, signalling his troops to move-out, making certain that his enemy was given purposeful signs of his departure.

As they steal double file along the narrow tracks cupped by mountains on the left and right, a trick quickly turns to disaster. The enemy's spies have done their work well. The king's plan revealed, the king checked and then checkmated.

The kingdom no more; now she would make a life from all new things.

She will succeed by recalling her past.

That fiery day in her life was not one she had made.

The enemy who vanquished her world was her father's foe; she, being his daughter, carried the mantle of her father's glory.

She knew she also carried the hatred of his enemies. She could stay and be a pampered slave, one more in a harem of her father's and her culture's killer.

Doing so had been her people's way, for; her shame would not be in being a slave, but in being of her father's blood.

But since she was so comely many men would have provided her sustenance, even if a king did not.

Through her own cabal, however, she would seek to move on. Her courage would be her clothes in a new world, and soon she would drape it with the riches of the West.

Through time and a series of people and events London, England and then New York City, U.S.A., become her home.

From that small feudal society hidden away in north-central Africa, where tiny armies still fought most battle hand to hand and flaming arrows were artillery, coming to New York was being born again.

From a place where women were still held as the spoils of victories, and time had almost stood still, this woman moved in body and spirit to become and control the destiny of a new empire, in a different kind of jungle.

"New York is something like my home," Mr. Leven was surprised to hear her say. "Whatever could you mean by that," he asked?

"Oh, nothing, I'm only making mental comparisons out loud. I was comparing the suburbs of New York with the Savannah of my country - both cool and spread out."

Through the rest of their conversation she fascinated him with the wisdom of her insight, and the passion she displayed to, again, be of royalty.

"I'll help you; you design the clothes and select the fabrics, I'll manage the business side of it!"

In eighteen months the stores on 5th Avenue were being rationed her, "Slaawouu" Fashions, and rich worldly New York ladies gladly spent thousands to own one.

At cocktail parties for the leisure class, in Vogue, and Time, in "W", the fashion newspaper, the New York Times, U.S.A. TODAY—in every beautiful woman's heart—the name of this betrayed king's daughter repeated itself like a Sahel wind, blowing from the past through now, and on into the future.

So far my story could be the opening lines of a fast moving novel, or the scenes in a "made-for-television" movie. They could be the fantasy of a young girl, daydreaming the things that we dare to dream before our minds start to settle only for reality.

By changing just a few time frames and a few objects, our heroine could, instead of the daughter of a fallen ruler, be made into a monarch of the whitepower - a multimillion dollar Cocaine Princess.

My story might be more believable if "Slaawouu" Fashions was nothing but a front for Mr. Levin, who uses it as a cover to smuggle hundreds of pounds of "Girl" into the United States.

The Black Gama mink coat, the Rolls Royce with driver, the houses in Kennebunk Port, Paris, and Westchester County could all so easily be the dirty profits from black dealings, in the white "drug of choice".

In 1988 to be rich is often to be a criminal; and our saga, for the sake of current style, ought to satisfy the reader with a story they can believe, from a real world they know exists.

Yet, there is still a place for literary license in stories; and even more hopefully, a place for rags to riches stories in the lives of some of us who live and breath, and walk and talk. There is so much opportunity out there. I think it needs saying in some small effort to counter much of today's doing.

In this context to say there is great opportunity to be rich and clean is to say that America, in the 90's, will be full of chances for ideas to become money making reality.

And it will.

Something has to begin to mitigate against a mentality that is beginning to teach, "you will either get some real money, through drugs, or you will struggle with life just to get by."

So I thought I'd tell my tale of rags to riches, without the drugs. My story is no more far fetched than a Harold Robbins yearn, but still it's more distant than the lure of drug riches. Riches are what my princess got; but drug dealers get very rich too. This storied princess is my contribution, for now, to a dream you might have; and yes, you too can be rich and clean.

G. James
Fleming

Ambassador Perkins is speaking out in South Africa

When President Reagan appointed Edward J. Perkins as U.S. ambassador to South Africa most people thought that this was just a "token" gesture; that Perkins would be a tooth-less envoy; at worst, an "Uncle Tom"

At this time, this veteran diplomat was little known by his fellow-citizens and, besides, he was about the third attempt, by President Reagan, to find a black person who was mutually acceptable for this thankless post.

Perkins, formerly ambassador to Liberia, has not been totally low-key in South Africa, however. He has been outspoken and critical of the apartheid system, believe or it or not.

Not long ago, in the South African monthly magazine, "Leadership," he wrote:

"I sense a growing realization that a valid political system here must be one that correlates with the demographics of the country - not merely black participation or black cooperation, but government which truly represents the majority of South Africans."

Moreover, he continued, "the majority must have a significant say in how the government is formed."

In both South Africa and in the United States diplomatic eyebrows were raised at this outspokenness, especially open reference to "the majority," a term that is verboten in South Africa.

In public addresses, Perkins has followed the same line as in his written words. Before the Executive Women's Club in Johannasburg he said:

"We want to provide institutions which will insure a better, equitable future for all South Africans . . . ."

Earlier Ambassador Perkins also declared: "I do not think elaborate schemes which try to given an impression of black representation, but actually maintains white power, will work. They are doomed as the concept of apartheid itself."

This kind of stand has been taken by the ambassador, despite a recent warning by President P.W. Botha in parliament that the African government is considering restricting certain western diplomats.

— —

Perkins told the Kappa Alpha Psi Journal (which published his quotes) that he had "no doubt that apartheid would be eliminated but added that there were many obstacles blocking change."

Reviewing his two years in South Africa, he added to choose the most poignant thing I have stressed since my arrival here, it would be the lack of knowledge and understanding among South Africans."

How long Ambassador Perkins will be allowed the leeway to speak and write as he feels or as he sees it, no one knows. The U.S. government may ask him to soft pedal his opinions, at least, or order him to cease and desist at other extreme.

It is not beyond the South African government, either to bring pressure on Washington or to desire Perkins persona non grate, in which latter case, the United States will be forced to recall him.

Whatever the future, his footnote in history will show that, as the first black ambassador to South Africa, Edward, J. Perkins was no "token" and no "Tom."

In his earlier years, this native of Sterlington, La. (1928) was formerly administrator, Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, and served also in various capacities in Taiwan and? Ghana and on the West Africa Desk of the State Department of Washington.

He holds the bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and the master's and doctor's degrees in public administration for the University of Southern California.

FEB 1988