EDITORIALS

John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Frances M. Draper
President

THE VOICE OF BLACK AMERICA SINCE 1892

Armed Forces Inaugural Committee

The Armed Forces know how to accentuate the positive.

This is what was learned this week when the Afro visited The Armed Forces Inaugural Committee headquarters at the Southeast Federal Center in Washington.

From the time young Sgt. Mark Brown of Queens, N.Y picked us up from the Washington Afro-American office at 11th and U Sts NW, until we said goodbye to self-confident Col. Ben Waller, director of public affairs, you knew you had seen some of the finest of America's fighting men.

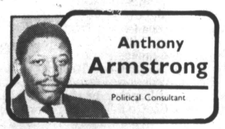
Col. Waller, the astute teacher that he is, assumes the public wants to know so he and his staff first show visitors a film on the history of the role of the military forces in inaugurating a president.

As he walks his visitors through tight security, in what was once a warehouse but is now a sleek office complex with cubicles set off by movable dividers,one sees military servicemen from all of the services —Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Airmen wearing different kinds of uniforms and of all different colors, working together to plan the inauguration of the 51st president of the United States—George Bush.

To the military it is a week-long celebration. A celebration that will involve some 1,500 military men and women. A celebration where although the present Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci is in charge of this peaceful transition of government, four black men and one white are playing the key roles in planning, organizing and executing the military role.

Col. George Hudgens, chief of staff of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee remembers when there were only five staff members looking at an empty warehouse back in June. He admits it was hard work to transform that building into the modern facility it is today to conduct business for the presidential inauguration.

The film on the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee ends with the words "Few moments in our history offer this 'spectacle of Democracy' " ... and we agree. Our readers whether Independent, Democratic or Republic will miss a lifetime opportunity if they don't either come to Washington to participate in the activities or watch and read about it in the media. - FLM



Anthony Armstrong
Political Consultant

Ready, set, go!

Well, here we go again; it is a new year and that always brings a burst of fresh new hope. We sure can use it, the hope that is here in Baltimore. So much of what we started with in 1988 has been lost; yet, as the phrase goes, "hope springs eternal."

It's good that it does, and thank God the springs from which hope comes aren't subject to any controls from our city hall.

It's been nothing but a turn down year, this now old man 1988; and though few people, especially those in this city's African-American community, want to go public with their disappointment, privately almost everyone is muttering, "We made a mistake."

So now people are simply trying to stay out of harm's way, trying not to do or say anything that will put them on the mayor's "I'm going to get you list." Frankly, many of us are down right embarrassed too.

We emotionally jumped at what we thought was the best and brightest; much of the motivation for our action was little more than self destructive collective self hatred.

We voted for a white man in black face. We voted against our memories, many of which hurt so bad. We voted against a few broken words, an image that is all too often the image we have of ourselves as individuals. And we so often dislike who we see ourselves to be.

We voted against William Donald Schaefer, but we killed "Du" Burns with the flip of the lever. We voted for Mr. Schmoke and in doing so we gave birth, and I might add the power, to Ron Shipiro (no point in including Larry Gibson here—he's really Ron Shipiro, too). Yep, that's what we did folks.

Hope, there is this real thing called hope. Ready, set, go—it's a brand new year; and everybody knows new years, or at least the first few days thereof, are full of hope. Yet, we had the same hope this time last year, remember?

Something, thus, has to change for the better or 1989 won't be as bad for Baltimore as 1988. It'll be worst. What'll we do? The answers run the spectrum from impreach him, the mayor I mean, to teach him. Things in 1989 will probably fall somewhere in between these two extremes.

There are silver linings in dark clouds, that's what hope is about. When a city like Baltimore is left on its own without leadership from the office most responsible for that leadership, a natural self protection mechanism takes over.

Oh, you won't see any growth or improvement during such times, because the organism is concentrating on basic survival. However, the end of 1989 will probably see good ole Baltimore still in place—that is the bricks and mortar won't be floating down the bay. Yet, after 1988 that's all we dare expect.

The concensus is widespread and deep; our mayor, no, the mayor, apparently doesn't like his job. Being a mayor requires answering telephones with citizens on the other end of the line.

It means staying out most nights after 6:00 p.m.; it means saying no to old school buddies when what they want to do is not good for the rest of the city. Being a mayor means leading, and that's always tough; but in 1988 it seemed almost impossible for Mr. Schmoke.

The beauty of our system of government is that citizens can agree to disagree about almost everything, and that's certainly the case here in Baltimore.

However, even arch political enemies agree on broad issues like the need for positive movement, really good schools, clean streets that are reasonably safe, housing that is adequate, and leadership that is substantive. We also like to see at least a Chinese wall separating officialdom and friendship. I guess most of all we, friend and foe alike, want to see and feel hope.

At least we can thank the new year for that. Ready, set, go.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spending committee's role explained

Dear Editor:

Recent media stories have reported on the recommendations of the General Assembly's Spending Affordability Committee and the Governor's position that he disagreed with the recommendations. The purpose of this letter is to provide the citizens of Maryland with a better understanding of the Committee's actions.

The Spending Affordability Committee was created in 1982 and makes recommendations annually to the Governor and the General Assembly. The Committee is comprised of the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Delegates, majority and minority leaders, chairmen of the fiscal committees and other legislators. There are four citizen members who serve in an advisory capacity.

The underlying purpose of the Spending Affordability Committee has been to keep the growth in the state's ongoing operating budget in line with the growth in the state's economy and thereby avoid the need to increase either of the state's major tax revenues — the income tax or the sales tax.

In general the Committee's recommendations have provided for an increase of $400 to $500 million per year. Reflecting on the continuing strength of Maryland's economy, the Committee this year has recommended an increase of$619 million.

The Governor has said this is insufficient and indicates he will submit a budget spending more money than the Committee's recommendation. Common sense dictates that a government cannot spend more each year than can be raised each year from the growth in existing taxes unless the government is willing to increase its taxes. The State of Maryland, unlike the federal government, cannot engage in deficit spending.

The Committee's major concern was to expend the state's large general fund surplus, projected to be in excess of $400 million as of June 30, 1989, for nonrecurring items in order that the ongoing spending be kept in line with ongoing revenues. To accomplish this the Committee recommended the surplus be used as follows:

* $100 million as the final payment for the state's obligation to the savings and loan depositors.
* $150 million for pay-as-you-go capital construction, including additional monies for public schools and universities and colleges. This action will lessen the amount of future bond issues.
* $17 million to the "rainy day fund." This fund provides a cushion to the state during an economic recession.
* $12 million to make the final payment to the transportation fund for monies borrowed during the savings and loan crisis.
* $12 million to eliminate a long-standing deficit in the "open space" program. This program is used by state and local governments for acquisition of park land and for park development.

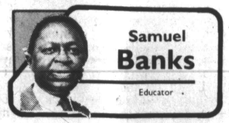
The balance of the surplus would be held as a hedge against uncertainties of the revenue estimates and for possible economic changes resulting from action of the President and Congress to control the federal deficit.

In summary, the Committee's program provides for a significant increase in the level of ongoing state spending — $619 million. provides for some tax relief targeted to selected groups — $40 million, and provides almost $300 million in nonrecurring expenditures outlined above.

The program will enable state government to meet the needs ot the citizens but does not commit the state to an ongoing level of spending that may cause a sales or income tax increase in 1990 or 1991. We believe the Spending Affordability Committee has acted prudently and in the best interest of the citizens of Maryland.

CHARLES J. RYAN,
Chairman
House Committee
on Appropriations

LAURENCE LEVITAN,
Chairman
Senate Budget and
Taxation Committee



Samuel Banks
Educator

Sound the jubilee in 1989

The New Year brings with it a variety of marvelous, inventive and creative ways for us black people here in Maryland and throughout the nation to get out of the doldrums and malaise which affect too many of us and to forge a design for our mutual progress and uplift.

The revels and histrionics associated with the ushering in of a new year have begun to subside and recede into the past. Now, as we formulate goals and plans for 1989 and beyond, is the time to GET SERIOUS ABOUT LIFE, RENEWAL AND SURVIVAL.

Historically, in the life of our people, the SOUNDING OF THE JUBILEE, has had an intoxicating and exhilarating affect on our people because of the spirit and promise supporting "JUBILEE" contained in the historic Emancipation Proclamation.

Abraham Lincoln made known his intention to declare an Emancipation Proclamation in September, 1862 after the Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Emancipation Proclamation was not to go into effect until January 1, 1863 and affected only slavery in states that were in rebellion against the Union.

Slavery continued in Maryland until 1864 when it was abolished by legislative action of the Maryland General Assembly. In reality, in the Confederate States of America (i.e., South), the Emancipation Proclamation freed no slaves when it went into effect on January 1, 1863 because the South was in firm control of the states where slavery prevailed.

The great value of the Emancipation Proclamation was the psychological and moral advantage it conferred on the United States in repudiating human chattel, traducement and brutalization of life predicated on color.

The moral dimension of the Emancipation Proclamation was instrumental in dissuading Great Britain and France from supporting the South in the Civil War. The practice of "King Cotton Diplomacy" had come to an ignominious and just conclusion.

The Emancipation Proclamation signaled to four and one half million black slaves and 500,000 free blacks in 1863 better days lay ahead in the coming jump from FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

Throughout the nation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be celebrating Jubilee Day.

Locally, an enterprising and highly conscientious and able Jubilee Day Planning Committee, headed by Dr. Calvin Burnett, the astute and sagacious president of Coppin State College, has been working with the redoubtable and energetic Mrs. Enolia McMillan, president of the Baltimore Branch, NAACP, and other committee members to plan Baltimore's Jubilee Day observance.

THE JUBILEE DAY PROGRAM WILL TAKE PLACE ON Saturday, Jan. 7, 1989 AT 1 P.M. AT THE DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH (1327 MADISON AVENUE). PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW.

The speaker for this momentous and historic occasion is Samuel Daniels who is widely known and respected throughout Maryland and the nation. Mr. Daniels serves as the Executive Director of CEBO and is a redoubtable and influential Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons.

He possesses a wealth of information and pragmatic insights to serve as the keynote speaker, supported by other prominent local, state and regional civic and religious leaders, on Jubilee Day.

Plan now, as the New Year gets underway, to be there "TO SHOUT THE JUBILEE FOR FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE." I hope to see you there on time and taking care of our business.

COMMENTARY & OPINIONS

Ruth Jenkins
SOB SISTER

Priest sparks laundryroom debate

"Well now, this certainly shows, like the Sunday School lessons teach, that God is everywhere. . ."

This declaration, in a voice of strong personal conviction came from our apartment house's laundryroom. Prompting us to go in there for a look-see.

While washing machines chugged, the significance of the Sunday School statement became immediately clear. The subject of this kill-time conversation was the Catholic clergyman who had just won a million-dollar payoff at an Atlantic City casino.

The priest was jovial and jubilant when he received the press at his Philadelphia rectory later. Being congratulated by many of his 450 parishioners. All in high spirits. Saying the windfall will be spent charitably. On high school scholarships. On church improvements, on other benefits.

So this occasioned the talkfest going on in our basement laundryroom the next day. Not all the participants were doing their laundry. Many, like us, had other purposes in leaving their upper-floor apartments.

Some had come down to play pool; some to play cards. Some to visit the library; some to get soda-pop or newspapers from the vending machines. Some had been on the first floor to the mail room, or to the physician's office; or to the beauty parlor. Us, we had come down to return a shopping cart to its vestibule stand.

Intending to go home, we hopped onto the first elevator which opened its doors. It was going to the basement, so we went along for the ride. And lucked up on the casino - clergyman conversation.

Our laundryroom spawns the most dynamic debates imaginable. Openminded, opinionated, ornery. Satirical, sentimental, silly, sensitive, stimulating. Controversial, challenging, contentious. Reflective, reactionary, reasonable, ridiculous. Idealistic, intense, informative, regional, irrelevant and inspirational.

The building has a topnotch assembly room just down the hall. But meetings there usually have a staid presiding officer, a purpose and a program. Not half as much fun as the gabfest by swish of the rinse cycle.

This morning, not everybody applauded the betting - bricade priest. Wondered how he could afford to be the 'regular slot player' described by a casino official. Others thought it was not fitting. Wondered should gambling be added to the 'thou shalt nots' of the Ten Commandments. You know, like amendments are added to the U.S. Constitution.

Lady Luck had propelled this clergyman's name from the religious news pages to the front page. Now maybe his name will also appear in the Philadelphia's Yellow Pages Telephone Directory.

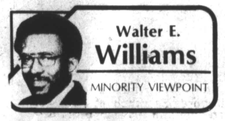
Not in the business listings but in the take-a-bow feature section which reports some "Fabulous Firsts" of the City of Brotherly Love.

Much of this information is stuffy historical stuff. Which we cram into students and tourists. Like Philly was the site of the first American convention, the U.S. constitutional Convention (1787); the first U.S. Supreme Court session (1789); the first U.S. Capital (1790-1800).

But the unique accomplishment of this pastor belongs among Quakertown's boasts of 'firsts' in the field flourished with greenbacks. Money, that is.

Like the first U.S. Mint (1792); the first fire insurance company, the Philadelphia Contributorship, (1752); the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, (1790); the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, (1816).

Oh yes, and the nation's first bank (no checks, please) was established in a building still preserved on Third Street below Chestnut.



Walter E. Williams
MINORITY VIEWPOINT

'Never Again' shallow ring

Might there not be disgust and disappointment roused by the many people who make pious observations about the horrors of Nazi genocide, and intone the words, "Never Again?"

Let's look at it. In Burundi this summer, the Tutsis went on another slaughter rampage of the Hutu. The Tutsi - controlled Burundi government admits the death of 5,000 Hutus. Other sources estimate a number nearer to 40,000.

This carnage, which included decapitation and dismemberment, is just the latest episode; in 1972, at least 100,000 Hutu were slaughtered.

Burundi is a mere microcosm of the entire African continent since independence. We've witnessed similar events in Chad, Uganda, the Sudan, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, and other states.

It is probably no exaggeration to say that since independence came to the continent five million Africans have lost their lives in racial, ethnic, and religious conflict.

While this slaughter has been taking place, and it continues at this very moment, where are the people who showed up to demonstrate in front of the South African Embassy every night? Where are the network news hounds who flooded our television screens with the goings on in South Africa?

Where are the college students who protest against South Africa's human rights violations? And what did Jesse Jackson say? One of the ironies of the African tragedy is, in terms of official slaughter of its own people and other human rights abuses, the South African government has the cleanest hands on the continent, yet the West singles her out as the pariah nation.

"Never Again" also has a hollow ring in Southeast Asia. There are estimates that as high as 2 million lives have been lost in ethnic carnage since the U.S. troop pullout from Vietnam, a number that far exceeds the war casualties. Where were the Vietnam War protesters, or those news cameramen who flooded our televisions with the gruesome events of the war?

The Never Again slogan has an even more shallow ring and is steeped in greater hypocrisy when one considers the political ideology and actions of its adherents.

Jews are the originators of the slogan as a remembrance and protest against Nazi genocide. By their actions in Israel, there is little evidence that even Jews have a true appreciation for the Holocaust.

For those who don't know it, the word Nazi is an acronym for National Socialist Workers' Party. The true misfortune is: We have not learned the lessons of Nazism. Too many people see Hitler's rise as a character defect of the German people or a struggle against socialist or communist trends.

The fact is: Germans have always been people of good will. Men like Goethe and von Humboldt served as an inspiration for the liberal ideas that took hold in England.

Germans who migrated to America won a reputation for getting along best with Indians, were the first abolitionists, and helped build the Underground Railroad to assist escaping slaves.

The rise of nazism was not a reaction against socialism but a necessary outcome of the effort to "perfect" socialism. This is why events in Russia, China, Africa, and Southeast Asia are so similar to those during Hitler's reign.

Nobel Laureate Friedrich A. Hayek's book, "The Road to Serfdom," cogently shows it was Germany's idea of creating a Utopia, leading to the massive consolidation of power in the hands of the central government, which made Hitler's rise possible.

In order to make Never Again a meaningful slogan, government power must always be weak relative to the people and that's a prescription that not even the Israelis can stomach. Sadly enough we will witness human rights horrors again, again, and again.

Gus Hawkins:

Black members continue to gain power

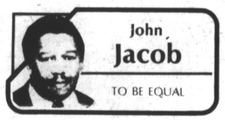
In the new 101st congress, black members of congress will assume new positions of power on Capitol Hill, that will serve not only to represent the interests of black Americans . . . but of all our citizens.

The first position of prominence was evidenced in the election of Congressman Bill Gray (D-Pennsylvania) as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. The Caucus is an organization of all House Democrats and formulates party rules and floor strategy, selects party leadership, votes on committee chairmen, and considers recommendations on all major issues.

Congressman John Conyers will become Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, which monitors: the overall economy and efficiency of government operations and activities; reorganizations in the executive branch of government; and, intergovernmental relationships between federal government and the states and cities.

This will add to the number of blacks who have full committee chairmanship; my Committee on Education and Labor; the Committee on District of Columbia (Congressman Ron Dellums); the Ethics Committee (Julian Dixon); Select Committee on Hunger (Mickey Leland); Select Committee on Intelligence (Louis Stokes); and the Select Committee on Narcotics (Charles Rangel).

1988—a year of impact



John Jacob
TO BE EQUAL

1988 was a year dominated by politics.

It saw the rise of a serious black presidential candidate, and the election of a new president who appears capable of breaking with at least some of the mistaken directions of the past eight years.

Conventional wisdom says the 1988 election proved the political powerlessness of blacks. But, as is often the case, conventional wisdom is wrong.

The black vote makes its maximum impact in close elections, but the 1988 presidential campaign wasn't close. Blacks gave over 86 percent of their votes to the loser — not out of enthusiasm for him, but against a candidate who served the current administration.

On the state and local level however, the black vote did have an impact on several important races. Black votes, for example, provided the margin of victory for Senator Lautenberg of New Jersey over his popular Republican rival.

And the number of blacks in Congress increased to 23, with the addition of Donald Payne, who carried New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

The justified pride in his election as the state's first black congressman should, however, be joined by heartfelt gratitude for his retiring predecessor, Peter Rodino, who was a stalwart champion of civil rights and who did so much to assure passage of key civil rights laws.

Conventional wisdom also says whites will not vote for black candidates, but Jesse Jackson garnered white votes in his primary campaigns, and Mississippi Congressman Mike Espy won re-election with 40 percent of the white vote.

But politics wasn't all there was to 1988. A small step forward was made by passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which closes a glaring loophole allowing discrimination. Another loophole was plugged when Congress passed amendments to the Fair Housing Act that for the first time, endows authorities with enforcement powers.

That such action was needed is demonstrated by a University of Chicago study released in November, which concluded: "blacks remain highly segregated no matter where they live in metropolitan areas." The study highlighted continued segregation in suburban housing.

In 1988, the twentieth anniversary of the Kerner Commission report led to a re-examination of changes in race relations over the past two decades. The grim conclusion was that the Kerner report's warning that America was sliding into "two societies — separate and unequal" was coming true.

Clearly, the pace of progress has been too slow, too many have been left behind, and we're moving backward. In 1988, there was a continued drift to a split-level society and continued indifference to the need for better health care, housing, education and job opportunities for minorities and the poor.

This way for black empowerment

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Ol' boy justice, Texas style

The story of Clarence Lee Brandley is not unusual. It is a story of brutality, perpetrated against a black man by a criminal justice system which has nothing to do with justice and a political establishment that has nothing to do with fairness.

If there were any justice, Clarence Lee Brandley would have been home for the holidays. But this brother spent Christmas in a maximum security cell at the state penitentiary in east Texas where—if the state authorities have their way—he will be duly executed by injection.

It all started eight years ago, when a 16-year-old woman was raped and then strangled to death at Conroe High School, where Clarence was one of five custodians on duty that day.

The young woman, a cheerleader, had traveled to the school for a volleyball tournament. Cheryl Lee Ferguson was white.

In 1981, Clarence Lee Brandley was convicted by an all-white jury of the murder and sentenced to death, although one of the other janitors, a white man, has since bragged publicly of the crime.

Another of the janitors, also white, admits he was a witness. Both testified for the prosecution at Clarence's trial.

It has been a year since a state district judge recommended there be a new trial, citing such gross irregularities as routine secret meetings between the prosecuting attorney and the trial judge from which Clarence's attorneys were excluded; the concealing of evidence by the prosecutor and the judge that could have cleared him; the manipulation and intimidation of witnesses; and the deliberate exclusion of black people from the jury.

On January 18, 1989 the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals will hear arguments by Clarence's attorneys for a new trial.

The appeals judge will rule on three points; 1) whether the state's death penalty statute is applied in a racist fashion; 2) whether Clarence was denied due process rights because the state "lost" evidence that would help his defense; and 3) whether the state's investigation was so biased that it created false evidence against him.

Clarence Lee Brandley fasts three times a week to protest the outrageous injustice against him.

We must all add our voices in protest against the lynch-mob style justice that is what we get for being black in America. But it is not enough to protest the outrages that continue to be perpetrated against our people and all people of color.

We must stand up and fight back against those who are guilty of these outrages—the bi-partisan political monopoly responsible for white supremacist "law and order."

We must run the risk of hitting the Republicans and Democrats where it hurts—at the polling booth! We must let them see the power of the black community unified in support for the black Agenda—our Agenda for economic and social justice. We must let them know that when they strike one of us, we will strike back!

That's why I am committed to building an independent party in America—a black-led, multi-racial third party, an alternative to the Democrats who will not defend us or stand up for us or speak out on our behalf.

I am talking about a people's party that will fight for the black Agenda and for the Rainbow social vision which Reverend Jesse Jackson articulates so brilliantly, and which we so desperately need.

If you would like to write to Brother Clarence Lee Brandley personally, send you letter to Inmate No. 680, Ellis, Huntsville, TX 77343. I know he would be glad to hear from you.

And if you live in or near Austin, where Clarence's appeals hearing will be heard on January 18, call Reverend Ozell Brandley, Clarence's brother, at (713) 631-3377 or write to him at 7910 Locksley, Houston, TX 77078 for information about how you can join the demonstration of support that will be taking place at the courthouse on that day.