Baltimore Afro-American

# OPINION

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## Shaefernomics

Our Mayor William Donald Schaefer has his own wacky sense of budget priorities even as our President, Ronald Reagan, has his.

Schaefernomics, however, has been at work in our city for much longer than Reaganomics, and so far as we can tell, sometimes the Mayor's "voodoo" economics, to borrow from George Bush about the man he now serves so discreetly, might even be more difficult for us to recover from than anything Reagan might devise.

For one thing, the President, fortunately, has some restraints on just how far he can move us one way or another, the Congress, chief among those brakes.

Schaefernomics has only a marshmallow City Council and a normally complacent citizenry to head it off, and that is clearly not enough.

Our Mayor will argue his budget cuts are only a response to the lessening of Federal impact monies caused by Reaganomics.

We argue that the Mayor, long before Ronnie mounted center stage, has held and sustained as the central core of his economic philosophy, the belief that rejuvenation of the private sector is essential to the survival of this city.

His decisions on the school budget are consistent with his long-scale economics and politics.

No matter what the reasons, the Schaefer administration is achieving a creeping but constant diminution of the quality of our public school system.

Since the majority of public school youngsters in Baltimore are black and the majority of physical revitalization of this city revolves around gentrification (in which poor or middle-income children have no prominent place in the scheme of things), certain conclusions are inescapable.

Our youngsters are, despite the attrition of resources for their education, achieving, a victory for the dedication of teachers and principals despite the odds.

But how long public school personnel can uphold their end of the bargain in the face of lessening commitments to public school education is at best a hazardous guess.

We expect the re-gentrification of Baltimore to continue at a pace in direct proportion to the decline in human services.

Teachers are being fired, services to classrooms are being reduced.

And the residential area surrounding the heralded Harborplace is being rebuilt to house the wealthy.

The school budget is part and parcel of this plan.

Already the voter majority we presently hold is being menaced.

Which means before Ron there was Don, and we must begin to re-evaluate our current administration's economic and real political priorities in light of this continuing reality.

School cuts are only symptoms.

## Welcome Dr. Slaughter

The selection of Dr. John Slaughter, the distinguished black scholar, as chancellor of the University of Maryland, College Park, is nothing short of an act of bravery on the part of UM President Dr. John Toll and the university's board of regents.

We welcome this appointment.

At the same time, we would suggest that no one think Dr. Slaughter's appointment is the

itself solves decades of racism extant in the University of Maryland system.

Dr. Slaughter can do much but not all.

He will need the support of community and our leadership to help the University of Maryland system be the open, completely humanistic academic center it has the potential to be.

## Preserve Tubman Home!

The house and property of the descendants of Harriet Tubman, "The Moses of Her People" is about to go on the auction block for the want of $808.33.

This hallowed ground just outside Cambridge, MD is on old Cordtown Road, the land where Harriet Tubman wept and suffered as a slave. It still holds an old barn, a "station" on the Underground Railroad where she hid slaves and whisked them away to freedom by night.

Attempting to hold on to the property is Ms. Geraldine Tubman, a direct descendant who resides in the house. Across the road and down a piece is the old burial ground behind the tiny church where Harriet once worshipped.

We must show some concern about our heritage, although we all face hard times. Anyone who cares may contact Ms. Geraldine Tubman, Route 2, P. O. Box 279, Cambridge, MD 21613. (A fuller story will come next week.






MADELINE MURPHY

Every knock is a boost, according to the old saying. But in the case of Kurt Schmoke, black candidate for state's attorney every knock, especially from the white community, is an excuse.

It is an excuse to cover racist attitudes, saying a black states' attorney would be less vigilant about black criminals; less devoted to the cause of equal justice. This is what Schmoke is up against.

But no one in his right mind can ignore Schmoke's qualifications; his educational background; his experience and integrity. He is a dream candidate for states' attorney, running against incumbent William Swisher— the man — with sirens blasting, and the irresponsible and inflammatory advice: "Shoot first, and ask questions later."

Coming into this racist arena, Schmoke speaks dispassionately about his plans. He spells out the role of a temperate states' attorney armed with facts, experience, and intelligence; projecting a plan for resurrecting that office from third to first rate.

In the realm of experience, Kurt Schmoke spent three years in the U. S. Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted street and "suite" crimes. He says he prosecuted more people than Swisher has in his two terms.

One need not extoll his educational background, for any fool can see that having graduated from Yale and Harvard, having been a Rhodes scholar, requires no other embellishments.

Now to his plan.

Knowing most of the street crimes, and violent black on black crimes stem, in the main, from dope related problems, either by use or sale — causing burglaries, robberies and mayhem — Schmoke plans to develop a special narcotics unit.

He says almost 50 percent of violent crimes are committed by juveniles. Therefore, he plans a two-pronged assault — short and long run solutions.

In the former, he suggests more space should be built in juvenile training facilities, to deal with both reform and rehabilitation. Having, as state's attorney weeded out the dangerous youth before they go to court, he would make the decision as to whether they should be tried as juveniles or adults.

In the long term, he would institute programs about the horrors of drug addiction, would also improve the quality of education leading toward making youth employment more readily accessible and attractive. This would dovetail with his pledge to prosecute the big wheels in the narcotics industry, without whom juvenile street crime would decrease appreciably.

Further, in citing the Attorney General's office as example, Schmoke says, "A full time battle is needed against crime. We need full-time prosecutors. I won't allow people in that office to have private practises."

Moreover, he would change the plea bargaining system where there would be no reduced plea for defendants accused of assaulting senior citizens. And in armed offenses there would be no plea bargaining, unless the weapon used was turned in; the source of the weapon identified.

We see no wild-eyed radical or chauvinist in Kurt Schmoke. He is the kind of serious, thoughtful young man we need. Nor do we see irrationality in regard to the hard and serious job he intends to perform when elected State's Attorney.

We do see the hope at last for most people who fear leaving their homes at night — who are virtual prisoners there.

Schmoke has developed a thoughtful analysis of what is wrong with criminal prosecution in an office where heretofore there has been more form than substance under William Swisher.

It seems Swisher is more enamored of demagoguery than in planning an efficient, effective organization, holding on at the grace and behest of local political bosses. Haven't we had enough of that?

If you agree — it is up to you and the black citizens of Baltimore, including political organizations, East and West, to turn things around; to set the record straight; that we can change inefficiency and incompetence in criminal prosecution; the aroma of corruption.

We can elect a man — Kurt Schmoke — to put his reforms into action.

Finally, we will need your help. Invite him to speak to your neighborhood groups; to your political clubs. Plan ways to get out the vote — NOW.

Serve in his headquarters at 2205 N. Charles Street. Save your dollars for his August fund raiser.

Black Baltimore has always shown that when there is an attractive, no nonsense, black candidate, who speaks to the issues that bother us, we ELECT HIM!

Let's do it again this September. Start now by offering your help. Call Kurt Schmoke's headquarters at 366-5100. You won't regret it.

Commentaries by Madeline Murphy can be heard each Tuesday during the 6 p.m. newscast on Radio WEAA-FM.



PARREN J. MITCHELL

## Taking care of our own

Very recently, I had the privilege of addressing two outstanding groups in our community.

One group, the Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Maryland, is concerned that more black families must come forward and adopt the more than 100,000 homeless black children in this country.

The other group, the Women's Housing Coalition, is concerned that the growing number of homeless people in our city, and throughout the nation, are not being provided for adequately in our nation's cities.

The Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Maryland is a non-profit support group which epitomizes the challenge, "Don't just articulate concern — pursue constructive courses of action to address the problem."

This group, while only a year old, is truly meeting this challenge. Its members provide their homes at night — who are virtual prisoners there.

Additionally, the members of this group assist parents who already have adopted.

While these services alone are most valuable, the group goes a step further. The Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Maryland is in the forefront in informing the black community about state adoption policies, requirements, and additional pertinent information to make their efforts proceed a bit more smoothly.

There still is more: the group extends itself as a go-between in many instances during the adoption process, providing referrals, family counseling, and guidance to appropriate agencies.

On a final note, it is the Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Maryland which continues to provide Saturday conferences and community information nights, at which time interested parents and others can be enlightened, and have questions answered.

I was most honored to have spoken during their first conference, and I intend to continue to assist in their efforts to address the prevailing myths which work against the many black children in need of adoption or foster homes.

These ugly myths are that: (1) black people are under the impression they must own their home and have a two-car garage in order to adopt; and, (2) blacks are not interested in adoption.

Such myths feed on each other, and ignore the fact many adoption agencies are not addressing the needs of black families adequately.

Moreover, because most such agencies are staffed primarily by whites, there is the serious question as to whether these workers are going into the black community to find families for our homeless black children.

While the entire adoption system in most of our states must be examined, it is good to know groups such as the Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Maryland are helping ensure black homeless children are united with black parents.

The Women's Housing Coalition is yet another group which has responded to the call for constructive solutions to an overwhelming problem.

The plight of homeless adults continues to prevail throughout our city and others.

The Bureaucratic and legal stipulation for institutionalization may not quite reach these people: they do not pose a danger to themselves or others, and thus can not be forcibly removed from the streets and hospitalized.

Consequently, these people are forced to live amidst filth and frustration while life bustles by normally for those who remain oblivious or just do not know how to help them.

To further complicate the problem, many homeless people have reached the point where they refuse help when it is offered.

The Women's Housing Coalition is among those who are meeting the challenge of aiding our homeless adults. For example, in February of this year, the Coalition provided a home for eight homeless women.

These women, were able to move into a refurbished rowhouse on Edmondson Avenue, and

(Continued on Page 7)

## From third to first rate

## Letters

## More black police?

Dear AFRO:

On Wednesday, June 2, I had the opportunity to attend a "coffee hour" sponsored by the Baltimore City Police Department. In attendance were most of the black leaders of the community; church representatives, legal representatives and political personages.

In effect, what the "coffee hour" turned out to be was a recruitment drive for minorities by the City Police Department. Bear in mind, this was not a disguised ploy, for the invitations clearly stated to it was a recruitment drive.

As each speaker spoke, i.e., Mayor Schaefer, Commissioner Frank Battaglia, Major Donald Woods, etc., I was not quite sure what I was hearing, for each one had taken on the speech patterns of a black southern baptist minister. During the course of the affair, Mrs. Juanita Mitchell bestowed praises upon Commissioner Battaglia, which he might have been deserving of, I do not know for sure however.

I finally realized what was irritating me. Again, the white authorities were appealing to the only stable base in the black community — the Church. The "new found" religious attitudes displayed by the speakers were but a ruse to gain support from the black Church community to go out and "spread the word" to its black brethern.

Another point which became quite clear to me was — this is going to be a long, hot summer — not just for Baltimore, but for most large cities. With the number of blacks unemployed, all of a sudden there is a need for minority police officers. If this call is answered by the black community, we will face again the oppression of black against black.

If the Police Department really wants to do something which will enhance the esteem of the black minority, why don't they start elevating the already existing employees in administrative positions? There are a number of black officers, I am sure, who have already proven themselves capable of administrative positions. They are not given the opportunity.

So, the City Police Department will hire more blacks and state on their statistical data charts, "Look at our racial composition. We are truly an equal opportunity employer."

I am not failing for it, and it is high time our bla-kblack representatives, Church and community alike, take a long, hard look at what is happening right in our midsts and stop feeling prestigious because they have been invited to a "coffee hour."

CLARA DIGGS

## Teachers and parents together

By Marion Banfield

Announcement of the lay-off of 1,000 teachers is almost numbing. We wonder. What are we, as a civilized community, doing to our children? We as blacks have the greatest need for an improving educational system.

Statistics of our illiteracy, teenage pregnancies, jail population make such a cut in the educational budget an indication of the lack of understanding and problem solving ability of adults controlling the funding and functioning of our public schools.

At this time I think of one glaring lack. There is no strong bond between teachers and parents. Yes, both sides want an educated child.

Back in the early 1950s, I recall a teacher-parent forum at Western High School. There was dialogue among parents, teachers, and students. Even before that, I recall the Teachers' Union having Saturday morning sessions at Baltimore City College.

The time has come for us as a community to join forces in helping the Department of Education focus on the prioritized needs of this city's children.

Those parents, who have frequented our classrooms and school buildings, personally know of principals and faculty deeply involved with educational goals toward excellence. We know Baltimore can develop a better educational climate. Who will take leadership?

Having been closely allied with public schools for more than three decades, I am appalled at the failure to reduce class sizes, the removal of class room aides, the lack of mutual support between faculty and parents.

There is nothing impossible about focusing on attitudes, on relationships as we strive together for a school system geared to our realistic needs.

We await a community call to develop an on-going city-wide support-for-education process.

## Stop crying the blues

Dear AFRO:

The purpose of this letter to you is to ask you to write something in your paper to try to get black people and poor whites and others of this nation to stop crying the blues and do something about the things the President is doing to senior citizens.

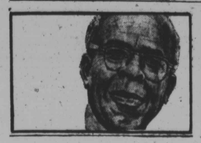
We need to stop President Reagan and stop talking about what we need to do and do something before it is too late. The way things are going, we are going into another war, which will not be like World War I or II.

Because he governs for the people, he should stand by the people — and the people are the poor and the middle class, as well as the rich. The people who put him in see he has forgotten who put him in office.

ROBERTO GARLANDO







G. JAMES FLEMING

## Our school for arts

Every once in a while, in order to retain personal and community sanity, it is good to remind ourselves there is more happening in the world besides war, rumors of war, crime, fear of crime, political scandals, and ecological pollution.

One reminder occurred Saturday evening. Twenty-eight young people received their diplomas in music, the dance, theatre, and visual arts — a lively class of young men and women representing the cosmopolitanism of the very city itself.

Nineteen of these graduates had already been accepted into colleges, conservatories and other educational institutions; one had a theatre internship; three were headed for Army bands.

All had specialized in some branch of the fine arts, at the same time as they were pursuing the requirements for the high school curriculum, with one exception: they were putting in extra hours, for their school day went, almost literally, from sun-up to sun-down.

These 28, from hundreds of original applications, had pursued their aPecialty as other students in other Baltimore City high schools pursue nuclear physics, or chemistry, or biology, or mathematics, or computer science — and, we hope, as all aim for mastery of the English language.

Their major specialty was their willingness to work hard endlessly and to discipline themselves, as partly reflected in the many awards for high achievement and excellence which they received.

But, "the rest of the story" of what is now the Baltimore School of the Arts is also the story of a woman, a mayor and the spirit of the new Baltimore City. As long as 10 years ago, perhaps longer, Margaret Armstrong, then supervisor of music in the City's public schools, broached the idea of a specialized high school for young people gifted in the arts.

No one was against the idea, but the doers and shakers in public education would not touch it.

As Mayor William Donald Schaefer recalled it, "They were afraid the school would be attacked as 'elitist,' as catering only to the well-to-do few."

Fortunately for Baltimore, William Donald Schaefer became mayor and the dream of a school for the arts found it had a committed champion. Mayor Schaefer, federal funds, plus an adventurous superintendent of public instruction, Dr. John Crew, Sr., plus, plus, plus... And the Baltimore School of the Arts was born.

The 650 high school students who have applied to enter the school next September should be vote of confidence enough of the high repute this institution has achieved in three years — thanks also to a cooperating Board of School Commissioners, an interested and involved Board of Overseers, an increasingly people-centered City Council, and dedicated, warm-hearted, concerned professional leadership, under the directorship of Dr. David Simon. Simon's parting words to the graduates were, "We love you and will miss you because you are like our children leaving home."

The Baltimore School of the Arts would still be only a dream in a few people's minds without the listening and daring of those so often maligned politicians who, on federal, state and local levels have been cognizant of the fact that in addition to schooling for making a living via dollars and cents, man also needs education for living.

Slowly, in state after state, politicians are returning to the logic that democracy does not dictate the best education possible only for the masses, the rank and file, but also for the endowed few, and the hard working few, who can become the specialists and servants to the rest of us. As the slogan of the United Negro College Fund suggests, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

The Baltimore School for the Arts is a happy marriage for far-sighted citizens, politicians at their best, craving students and supportive parents.



ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

MANY BALTIMORE school children are excelling despite the drawbacks of budget and other economic conditions.

Some 12 schools list youngsters who have superior honors and many scholarships.

CORROGAN ROBWOOD VAUGHN, a 10th grader at Northwestern High School has just received notice of a National History and Government Award.

The honor makes him eligible for a USAA college scholarships when he completes high school.

In addition, his biography will appear in the NHGA Yearbook.

CORROGAN has received several awards during his Callaway Elementary School years and semesters at Greenspring Junior High.

His most recent honor came as a result of nomination by his Northwestern High Social Studies teacher Richard Horowitz. The essay which won prime attention was Corrogan's composition on Orchard Street Church, the Baltimore building constructed by slaves.

The youngster is the son of Dr. and Mrs. A. C. C. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Horace A. Bowser of North Carolina and Mrs. Mildred Vaughn of Baltimore and great - grandson of Johnny Bowser.

His sisters are Lynette Vaughn, an 8th grader at Greenspring Junior High and Cassandra Vaughn a 2nd grader at Calloway Elementary School.

LOOKING FORWARD to graduation and the beginning of a career, Corrogan would like to join the U.S. Armed Forces with an eye on the Space Program or specialization in government and politics.

OTHER RANKING SCHOLARS

DARLENE GILES, the Dunbar No. 1 graduate, will attend Loyola College in September and has set as her goal a career in psychiatry.

DONNA RICHARDSON, a Walbrook No. 1 grad and also winner of many scholarships, will attend Catonsville Community College for a career in Business Education.

FRANCINE RAY of Douglass High will attend Villa Julie College and major in business education. She is the winner of four scholarships.

WILLIAM FISHER of Carver majored in Industrial Electronics and as a student of Catholic Institute this fall will major in the field of electronics.

CANDICE CHUBB of Mergenthaler will begin by working in a local bank and then decide what career to assume. She compiled a high school average of 95.4.

ADETAYO SODIPO, the No. 1 City College grad, and one of 300 in the USA to earn a National Achievement Scholarship Award, will attend the University of Detroit in September. Her sister, Abimola, ranked No. 2 in the 1982 class.

CALLEEN DARBY, the Northwestern grad who has several honors and scholarships will attend Villa Julie.



CORROGAN ROBWOOD VAUGHN gets high award

## For all we know

### Many youngsters excell despite obstacles

ROBIN MARIE SMITH, a City College grad, is the proud recipient of the Social Studies Department's Malcolm Johnson Scholarship. She has also received the Journalism Award and the Merit, Honor and Distinction Awards. She will attend Frostburg State College to begin study for a career as a lawyer.

KATHLEEN WALKER a Western High grad, is a National Merit Scholarship winner and earned high academic standing in Western's difficult A Course.

CATHERINE HETTINGER, Lake Clifton, 1982 grad will attend Goucher. She won many scholarship awards which included first in the Citywide Mathematics Competition.

CRAIG HUGHES, the 1982 Southwestern grad, will enter the University of Maryland, College Park. This student's excellent records include many scholarship awards including the Benjamin Banneker Award.

DENEEN MORGAN a School for the Arts grad, will attend Towson and major in theater. Her honors include many citations.

MICHELLE FARMER, the Edmondson grad who will attend the University of Maryland, earned the Senatorial Scholarship and five other prestigious awards plus Who's Who Among High School Students.

TERRI ANN BEACH of Patterson High, will attend the University of Maryland. Her remarkable average was 97.1 at Patterson.

HUEN TAE SONG, the Poly grad, will attend Yale University. A National Merit Commended Student, he received eight awards and scholarships for excellence.

ANDREI RUFFIN of Eastern will attend Hampton Institute. He received the Peabody Award and several other scholarships.

ANDREW ANDERSON, the 1982 Forest Park grad will attend Morgan State University to major in pre - law. He received the Strobel Award as Forest Park's No. 1 student plus Morgan's Regent Scholarship.

Congratulations to all of you fine students.



Tony Brown's Comments

## Legal Defense Fund represents white interests

Because of the confusion in names, the NAACP was consistently blamed for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund's legal strategies and involvement in the so-called desegregation of black colleges. It was good to hear Benjamin Hooks say the two were "not in accord" on that issue.

The courtroom behavior of the white-dominated Legal Defense Fund (LDF) has, because of its notion of "romantic racialism" — a neo-racist application of slavery-time plantation racism — convoluted the meaning of integration.

First and foremost, the LDF overlooks the obvious: Integration can take place with either a black or a white majority. The intent of integration is not to assure everyone that blacks will always be a minority in every instance and institution — including their own.

It is not integration per se which troubles the predominantly black public colleagues. It is the use, or misuse, of the LDF brand of integration which will ultimately destroy them.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, under the Carter Administration, goaded by a lawsuit brought 12 years ago by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., gave us a modern day nightmare. They say we are being "integrated" and "desegregated." If we are, they are the two newest dirty words in the book.

Since the Brown decision in 1954, the words "segregation" and "desegregation" have shifted significantly in meaning. We understand "segregation" to mean a policy — often legal — to separate children BECAUSE of race.

"Desegregation" was the answer to the cruel and racist policy; it would eliminate ALL racial distinctions.

"Segregated" schools today, however, mean schools with a black majority and the logic of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund is that college segregation must be eliminated at any and all costs.

By now, you should have realized "black" and "segregated" are synonymous and a social policy BASED on race favors whites. This social policy, called "integration," now threatens to destroy the primary source of black college graduates. Look at "desegregation's" track record.

West Virginia State and Lincoln University in Missouri are textbook examples of what "desegregation" means. Formerly mostly black, they are now "integrated," which means they are predominantly white.

Tennessee State University has been merged out of blackness. Norfolk State is under the gun to cease and desist as a training ground for blacks, and Langston University in Oklahoma may be closed outright if it does not become white enough soon.

Thanks to the activities of Black College Day on the last Monday in September of each year, local supporters of the endangered "Adams" lawsuit-states have challenged the romantic racialists' notions about making black colleges whiter. The logical extension of integration — when viewed myopically — is the destruction of black colleges as we know them.

Dr. Diane Ravitch, who confines herself to Columbia University's Teachers College, in a paper called, "Desegregation: Varieties of Meaning, explains the social policies that the NAACP LDF, led by white director Jack Greenberg, is following are creating more racial hostility and separation than the segregation they profess to eliminate. Most importantly, this social policy sees no worth in black people or black culture.

Dr. Ravitch exposes "the white liberal's 'romantic racialism' and their need to solve 'the Negro problem' by eliminating Black history and culture."

"Over the past 25 years, the words 'segregation' and 'desegregation' have shifted significantly in their meaning. In the early 1950's, there was a general understanding of the meaning of these two words: 'Segregation' in school, was a state-imposed policy of separating children solely on the basis of race; 'desegregation,' conversely, meant the elimination of state-imposed racial distinctions.

"These conventional definitions were repreated time and again in the record of Brown v. Board of Education cases," she explained.

"'Segregation' today is a term that applies interchangeably both to discrimination against minorities and to racial concentrations of minorities in neighborhoods or in schools, and 'desegregation' is commonly used to mean 'racial balance.'

"The policy implicit in these definitions is one of dispersion of racial minorities among the White majority in order to achieve desegregation, as it is presently defined."

"To the romantic racialist, the solution to the Negro problem was some form of amalgamation, either the physical absorption of the Black race into the White majority, or cultural amalgamation, in which the special gifts of the darker race would enrich and ennoble the national character.

"These kinds of views, while intended to be humanitarian, were condescending, paternalistic, and patronizing, at times, they veered dangerously close to the idea of Black inferiority.

"It was never suggested," writes George M. Fredericksson, that Whites become literally like the Black stereotype and sacrifice their alleged superiority in intellect and energy.

"In the proposed process of amalgamation, whether physical or cultural, there was never any question which race would remain dominant and which would eventually be submerged."

There's nothing wrong with thinking white — if you are white. But, if you think white — and you are black — you hate what you are.

Jack Greenberg of the LDF says they want to "enhance black colleges. If what they are doing is saving black colleges, I do not believe black colleges can afford to be "saved."

As you learn in law school: "One intends the natural and normal consequences of his acts." Whether one means to eliminate black colleges out of ignorance or malice — they are still closed.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, can be seen on public television Saturdays, on channels 22 and 67 at 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

## Education should be our priority

By Yahya B. A. Muhammad

The Mayor's three "Untouchable Departments," according to the Morning Sun are police, fire and education, priorities, which should be reversed in the opinion of many.

Many citizens believe the best way to fight crime and fires is with light, knowledge, proper education.

An education that will equip the human being with the knowledge to create a job, that will be legitimate and of benefit to himself and to his community if there are no jobs to be found in the public and private sectors.

We should shudder at the thought of cutting back on education — proper education — in the face of budget cuts. Education is the one ingredient that can turn our economic, criminal and social problems around.

What is the cry of the citizenry when it comes to a case where a law enforcement officers goes too far, and brutalizes a citizen in the line of duty?

The cry is that the officer should have been better educated.

What is the cry of the citizenry in regard to the inmates who crowd our penal institutions? Educate them and the problem that we are having with them now will not be as severe.

We would not be in a situation where inmates are like revolving doors, out today, which affords them the opportunity to commit another violent crime, then back in tomorrow.

What can end this problem if not education, education that will equip the perpetrators of violent crimes to seek or create meaningful work that will give them the basic requirements of life, food, clothing and proper shelter.

Food, which has a nutritional balance, decent clothing, designed to respect the dignity of human society, and decent housing, free from roaches, rats and falling plaster, and kept that way by the inhabitants, who will have a sense of pride because they have been properly educated.

To cut back on education — proper education — is to rob the human being of the human potential he has been endowed with by his Creator.

There was a time, when parents took the responsibility to develop the personality of their children — that was when religion was strong in society.

Now that religion has taken a back seat on moral issues and left it to fads, telecommunications and any other movement that wants to control the minds of our youth.

Parents find it difficult, if not impossible to muster up enough strength to compete with misguided peers and other elements to properly develop the personality of their children.

They "give in" for fear of being called old-fashioned, square or contributing to the generation gap, by their children.

We should realize children are like fresh clay, impressionable, so we must take the responsibility for seeing to it that they are properly educated by us and by the institutions set up for that purpose in the broader society.

In most countries, many of which are not democratic, education is their highest priority. In these countries, you will find their criminal problems are not as bad.

When we get right down to it, that slogan, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste" should become our national slogan.

It is a shame on our country to have our youth struggling the way they do to get a higher education.

How can we expect the best to come out of them when they have to go into class not knowning when they will be ejected because the fees or student loans are not available or have not been credited to their account to cover the cost of their course of studies.

How can we expect the best from them when they constantly worry about where the monies are coming from to feed them during their stay on campus?

After seeing the pitiful plight of thousands of our college students across the country, how can we, and any other movement that wants to control the minds of our youth.

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When we get right down to it, that slogan, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste" should become our national slogan.

It is a shame on our country to have our youth struggling the way they do to get a higher education.

How can we expect the best to come out of them when they have to go into class not knowning when they will be ejected because the fees or student loans are not available or have not been credited to their account to cover the cost of their course of studies.

How can we expect the best from them when they constantly worry about where the monies are coming from to feed them during their stay on campus?

After seeing the pitiful plight of thousands of our college students across the country, how can we, and any other movement that wants to control the minds of our youth, sit idly by and allow the education of our children to be jeopardized in the least?

In fact, we should be planning, demonstrating and demanding that our children receive quality education that will be meaningful to them in their future years.

We should have learned by now that a lack of education will breed all of those undesirable conditions we deplore in our society.

Along with securing a proper education for our youth, we must be willing to step back into our role as the personality developers of our children, this is a responsibility that falls upon all of us, whether we have children or not, because the total society will benefit from the results.

## —Parren Mitchell

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relearn the domestic and social skills of caring for themselves and their immediate environment.

The Women's Housing Coalition is one of the bright stars in our community which typifies the genuine efforts which result from unity and a true commitment to aiding the homeless adults, or, as commonly referred, "bag people."

Both the Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Maryland, and the Women's Housing Coalition are first and foremost in addressing human needs and problems.

They are dealing forthrightly with formidable problems which are being exacerbated by declining national economic conditions and budget cuts which will diminish the essential federal role in addressing these issues.

I am inspired by such groups because they assure me that those of us in the community who are truly concerned will not follow the trend of ignoring social needs, and expecting the private sector to meet them entirely.

Let us all continue to meet the challenge as the Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Maryland, and the Women's Housing Coalition have done: "Don't just articulate concern — pursue constructive courses of action to address the problem."