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This is Black Dollar Day weekend

Black Dollar Day is not a new concept — the idea has been around for quite some time, and has been dramatically used on many occasions. The major thrust of the campaign is to demonstrate the power of the black dollar.

Although it is officially called Black Dollar Day, it really encompasses the entire weekend. The NAACP has designated this Labor Day weekend as the time when blacks can show the business community the effects black dollars can have.

We agree with the NAACP that a graphic demonstration is both necessary and possible to show the power of the dollar, and the numbers of dollars put into the economic mainstream by black consumers.

For the unitiated, blacks are urged to convert their money into 2-dollar bills, or Susan B. Anthony dollars. This is the money which should be spent in shopping over the Labor Day weekend.

Most of the banks in the Baltimore area are cooperating in the effort by keeping supplies of two-dollar bills and Anthony dollars on hand. The NAACP asks that black citizens convert $10 or more into $2 bills or Anthony silver dollars, and to use this money when making purchases.

It has been long known that you get attention by letting people know how effective and necessary you are. When you demonstrate to the merchants the obvious buying power of the black community, then they must pay attention.

Observe the NAACP's Black Dollar Day campaign. Convert your money. Let the business sector know blacks will not be taken for granted any longer.

NAACP BLACK DOLLAR DAYS

USE THESE WHEN YOU SHOP

The aftermath of the March

The momentum of the second "March on Washington" will be carried on by black congressional legislators through a series of proposals, including a national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The March was a huge success by any standards of measurement as it traced the steps of its predecessors of twenty years ago when Dr. King intoned his unforgettable "I Have A Dream" speech from the steps of the awe-inspiring Lincoln Memorial.

The March with the slogan "Jobs, Peace and Freedom," drew a cross-section of more than 300,000 people despite so-called official estimates of a much lower turnout.

Circulating through the throngs, one found a mixture of young and old and various organizations representing all ethnic groups, all mingling in a spirit of congeniality and friendship to show their allegiance to a legend who made the supreme sacrifice on their behalf.

There were no reports of major incidents to mar the spirit of the day.

Although Dr. King's name was mentioned only near the end of the speeches, his spirit hovered over the vast gathering like a brooding and deeply concerned shepherd. This time the flock was different than during the previous occasion when participants were different in appearance and dress. Previous marchers showed the toll of years of deprivation and injustice had taken. Those marchers returned to their communities with a new vigor and aligned themselves with causes that would improve their condition.

Many returned to Washington this time to join ranks with a variety of ethnic groups who also wanted to express their views by demonstrating. Many of the young people had only read about Dr. King, yet they felt a compatability with him because he had paid the supreme sacrifice helping those who could not defend themselves against callous and insensitive officialdom.

The overwhelming turnout was not only a tribute to the memory of Dr. King, but credit should also be extended to the planners and organizers of the March — the most notable of them being D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy.

The organizers displayed mature judgment by anticipating almost all contingencies. There were no reports of major incidents. The pervasive atmosphere was positive and amiable among such a group or diverse backgrounds and origins. The friendliness crystalized the "dream" aspect of Dr. King's historic speech.

Following the 1963 March on Washington significant legislation resulted that enabled black citizens to become much more vocal by electing their own public officials who were concerned with their basic civil rights. Our own congressman, Walter Fauntroy, is doing a marvelous job in our behalf. Others on the national level have involved themselves in the broad spectrum of legislation because it benefits their constituents and they intend to be a vital part of the political process.

Although a congressional minority, the black members of congress realize from personal experience how detrimental federal cut-backs in education, social programs and food stamps work a particular hardship on their constituents.

Dr. King was an unpretentious individual who was assassinated a relatively young man in 1968 in the prime of life when he had a lot more to contribute. But his deeds and exploits will inspire future generations who in turn will pass the mantel of self-respect to their successors.

NAACP REPORT:

The Volunteer Hotline

Magdalene B. Fennell

This week Barbara Cooper, executive director of the Baltimore NAACP issued a call for volunteers to assist with the ongoing work of the organization. Three projects in particular scheduled either to begin or to culminate within the next few weeks require additional hands, feet, and voices.

One such project is the Voter Mobilization effort. The closing of registration books on August 15th did not signal the end of preparations for the upcoming election. Volunteers are urgently needed between now and Sept. 13th to facilitate the work remaining.

The voter registration drive conducted this summer resulted in the addition of more than 6,000 names to the election rolls. Now these 6,000 must again be contacted and encouraged to exercise the privilege for which they registered.

Crucial to the success of the continuing campaign is the recruitment of block captains. These captains accept the responsibility of contacting all registered voters in their block and urging these voters to cast their ballots.

A list containing the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of voters in a block will be provided persons volunteering as block captains. The captains will either telephone or visit voters a few days before the election in an effort to secure a 100 percent voter turnout on primary election day.

Senior citizens, handicapped persons, and mothers with small children often need transportation to and from the polls: consequently, volunteers are needed to provide rides.

In many instances block captains will arrange transportation for those who need it when they canvass their area. In cases where this does not happen, however, persons needing transportation and those willing to provide it should register with the NAACP by calling 366-3300 and asking for Jean Bias.

And those block captains willing to do the second mile should rework their assigned areas approximately two hours before the polls close on election day. In that way individuals who for various reasons have not voted may be coaxed into doing so by the 8 P.M. deadline.

Also scheduled for Sept. and in need of volunteers is the annual Unity Banquet. Now that invitations have been mailed to more than 1500 individuals and organizations, willing workers are needed to follow up on these mailings.

The banquet, to be held on Thursday, Sept. 29th, promises to be an unforgettable event. Many people will want to hear the Honorable Benjamin Hooks, NAACP executive director and keynote speaker for the occasion.

Still another project needing energetic volunteers is the fall membership drive. The campaign begins in Sept. and continues through November 22. Division heads, captains, and workers are all needed for this effort. Corporate chairperson of the campaign, Dr. Elizabeth N. Oliver, is hopeful that the number of memberships secured this fall will triple that of the spring drive.

If you can give the NAACP two or three hours each week to help with any or all of the projects discussed, call 366-3300 and volunteer your services.

Letters

Majority rule now

Dear AFRO:

We want leadership in City Hall. Leadership that will not sell us out once they get elected. We want accountable leadership that will not be used to constraint, or block the African-American community out of the economic, the political, and the social life of Baltimore City.

As an oppressed majority we demand a fair share of goods and services of both public and private institutions which control the qualitative aspect of our lives. It's a disgrace to the black community that a privileged, educated, class of lackies cooperated with Schaefer and company, for a few crumbs, and sold the community down the drain.

Schaefer and company have been very skillful in taking advantage of these hand picked few. (blacks for Schaefer)... some who have been elevated into positions as a tactic to sabotage, and squash any real chance we have of obtaining political power, and self determination in Baltimore City.

Their assigned task is to act as middleman, the end result is that they hope to enable Schaefer and Co. to continue their domination, exploitation, and oppression of Baltimore black population for four more years.

In their decision to support the re-election of Mayor Schaefer they are in fact saying that it's OK for a white minority to rule a black majority.

They are blind and are no different then those slave traders of the past, only now they trade the black community off for favors, but like the zebra those that betrayed our community can not wash away their stripes. We see their true colors and we will remember their lack of interest and their accountability on election day.

We the black majority are politically, and economically oppressed. We have been kept in check by a white minority from the outside, and by a black elite. We are now saying no more betrayal. Will the real black women and men stand up! We want to progress now not later.

So lets begin to think, to act, and to move like a majority instead of thinking like a minority. This is our city.

KALEB TSHAMBA

Open concerned letter

Dear AFRO:

As one of your more active volunteers at 16 W. Baltimore St., who is unquestionably in support of your re - election I have pondered over several things. Please explain how you plan to do the following upon your re-election:

(1) Train Baltimore policemen in the art of courtesy and tact.

(2) Improve neighborhoods whose plight is overlooked in deference to the Inner Harbor.

(3) Reverse the black unemployment statistics and give US a piece of the pie.

(4) Stop mistreatment of prisoners in the City Jail.

(5) Train court commissioners and instruct them that they are public servants.

(6) Improve the education of young minds so that they are prepared for any endeavor.

Mr. Mayor, I continue to believe in you, but as a black man my conscience bothers me at times because the time is nigh for a change.

May God bless you in reaching a decision that will benefit all Baltimoreans and allow you to sleep comfortably at night. Billy Murphy is about four years ahead of schedule, but he is causing political activism on the same scale as Jesse Jackson, et al. Be ever vigilant for we are.

REV. ELDON PITTMAN JR.
Chairman Third World Management

Now as never before

Dear AFRO:

Never before in our city's history have the eyes of the nation been so riveted on a Baltimore election. The haters, with and without their sheets and swastikas, and those in Chicago who at this very moment are striving mightily to turn back democracy and to embarrass and unseat Mayor Washington of that city.

The preachings have been loud and clear over the years, especially from those seducible blacks now eroding in their easy chairs and those praying from their pulpits that black citizens MUST become politically involved if they are ever to control their own destiny.

We have been lectured time and again that only a black can truly understand the plight of his or her brethren. We have been admonished that only blacks can relate to discrimination, to the misery, the hunger, the pain, the lonliness, the frustrations of other blacks.

A shroud of shame envelops those affected and affluent blacks who have put aside or forgotten their history and are now to contended in their conformity to heed their own former advice and logic, shamelessly embracing an incumbent mayor, as a viable black candidate offering his credible credentials stands before them.

Is William H. Murphy, Jr. qualified to lead our city? Does he possess the human, the essentials ingredients for leading those who require direction and guidance? Is he compassionate? Is he enlightened? Is he intelligent? Is he courageous?

We do not need professional politicians, expedient operators who can flash a smile on cue and press the flesh like a shopper in a meat market.

We do need a man who can offer a better, a bolder, a more compassionate leadership, a man who can rise the hopes of those abused and humiliated white and black citizens for whom the ground has crumbled at their every step, those forever thwarted in their efforts to face the sun.

We do need a man of justice, of feeling who speaks and labors for all citizens, a voice of clarity to unite us, one constantly aware that the promotion of disunity or turning one's back to any segment of our population is dangerously self - destructive.

By our wise and crucial choice September 13 we must (as never before) demonstrate our unity as a warning to all who have set their sails in the wrong direction. We must teach them now and forever that they can no longer ignore us.

William H. Murphy, Jr. will become mayor of this city if the uninfluential, the unaffected, the "little" people desire a man of hopes and dreams, and assist him in realizing those hopes and dreams by converging on the polls in the largest numbers ever on September 13.

If we do not now demonstrate unity we will never again be taken seriously by those lawmakers who view average white and black citizens as impotent and ignorant. They will continue to treat us as we deserve to be treated—as fools who never learn.

LEON PEACE RIED

Unpublished side of Conaway

Dear AFRO:

All too often in our lives, we do not have the opportunity to distinguish what is from what seems to be, or for that matter what others would have us believe.

A case in point is Frank Conaway a candidate for a seat on the city council from the fourth district.

Publish reports however meaningful, cannot always report every side of any individual.

The public should have enough information about any candidate so as to be in a position to make an intelligent voting decision.

Last evening I had the pleasure of attending a fund raiser for Mr. Conaway.

All during the affair the unpublished side of Mr. Conaway surfaced through the remarks of many who have not forgotten him and his ability to work for the people.

At one point an official of the NAACP took time to express his gratitude for the generosity he received from Mr. Conaway when he first came to Baltimore.

Many well known political figures were there including one of the major candidates for mayor.

The remarks from the politician echoed the same message, but the legislative skills of Frank Conaway strengthen the inner city economic base topping all this, a strong core of some 70 women have organized to tell the side of Frank Conaway that in my opinion will give him a seat on the city council from the fourth district.

INEZ A. CHAPPELL

Ole plantation Baltimore

Dear AFRO:

On the ole plantation Baltimore way up South, the inhabitants were considering a change in leadership. As a matter, this change could convert the plantation to a city. A city controlled by the majority instead of the minority.

All of the field hands had seen the light; a new day was dawning. An Eagle was about to soar. All was being made ready. The lame and the halt were assembling. The literate and the illiterate were preparing. The strong would help the weak

The young would assist the old with their strength. The old would assist the young with their wisdom. All would soon assemble in their proper choosing place. One and all to make their voices heard. The very air would become reverberant with hither to silent voices. A landslide was possible.

Each group was about to retire to its' camp to plan the most effective strategy. Hark! There on the veranda of the mansion house appeared Chicken George. With arms upraised, he announced, "We the house staff (a.k.a. House niggers) have chosen not to help the Eagle fly. We are the blacks for Massa Sha-er (still B.K.A. House Niggers for Massa Sha-er).

The moral of this story is, never trust house niggers they will always separate themselves from field hands.

ENID LAREG

Hooks on Black Dollar Day

Guest Editorial
By Benjamin L. Hooks

Marketing experts have long recognized the enormous power of the black American consumer. So have we. Corporations spend millions each year developing advertising campaigns to capture the black dollar. Yet, when one considers that blacks spend over $150 billion annually on goods and services, it is disheartening to know that many of these businesses do not provide a fair share of jobs and economic opportunities to black consumers.

To dramatize black consumer power, the NAACP has designated Labor Day weekend Black Dollar Day. We are urging all black Americans, young and old, to convert $10 or more into $2 bills and Susan B. Anthony silver dollar coins and spend this money on the designated days. Thus we are reminding white businesses of our spending power. We will demonstrate that they need us more then we need them.

Irby, Our Irby: O where have you gone...?

By Anthony Armstrong

Some twelve years ago a group got together in East Baltimore to build a political organization. Their goal was to bring back to East Baltimore some of the benefits of our political system, for the then forgotten people of that area of the city.

The efforts worked well. In fact, so well that East Baltimore became the most envied area in this city; because its political leaders possessed smarts, knowledge, and political unity.

As time went on, the results of the smarts, knowledge, and unity began to produce the kinds of returns that good representation can and does produce. The leaders of this group delivered more new housing to East Baltimore than had been built to date in any other part of town.

They built medical centers that now serve more than 17,000 people a year, with the best medical care available, at the lowest cost anywhere. And they jockied the building of two of the largest high schools ever built in the country: Lake Clifton High School and the new Dunbar High School. They did these things and more.

For you see, in American politics, at any level, the unified squeaky wheel gets the most oil. The better than average political representation provided to the citizens of East Baltimore brought benefits, but it also brought the enmity of rival political-economic groups outside East Baltimore. This was expected, only the source of the enmity would prove a surprise.

Because there is only so much to go around, if one political group gains, theoretically, another must lose. No political organization worth its salt will or could allow another political group to best it, at getting its share of the political-economic "pie," without some effort to fight back to regain what it believes it may have lost, to the competing group.

This applies to government grants and loans, favorable legislation, appointments to board and commissions, and anything else in the political grab bag. No means is too drastic or too unsavory in such an environment.

Political power is so important to such groups that the Machiavellian concept that "the ends justify the means" becomes the only rule that operates. This ebb and flow of political power hunting is a natural part of any political system. Baltimore city politics is no different.

Time passed and the dominant political group in East Baltimore continued to enjoy wide spread power and influence, culminating in the ability to deliver for its constituents. At one time, this group controlled almost all the elective offices, city and state, in East Baltimore.

Not only did they control the offices, but this organization began to see its members, who held the seats, rise steadily in power within their respective legislative bodies. They became committee chairpersons, Vice President of entire legislative bodies, and the people to "see" to get anything done on their political turf.

This added power brought even more spoils to this political group, and the people it represented. Things were proceeding very well, or so it seemed. Then something snapped! Not openly at first, but the fabric had begun to tear not from rot but from tension.

Some people, inside and outside this dominant political group, began to feel that the "big wheels" in the group had become too arrogant, too much beholden to interest other than those of the people of East Baltimore, who up until that time were paramount in the minds and actions of these leaders.

It did not help either, that some members of the group began to feel that some other members were getting too much money and credit for advances that they felt they should receive more of the credit for implementing. It also did not help to have a particular member, who felt slighted and unappreciated, to be gripped increasingly in his own "prison of personal inferiority."

Enter State Senator Nathan Irby. Irby really got into politics through the help of the other dominate members of this, once, most powerful East Baltimore political group.

He, like the group itself prospered. For a long time he was recognized as being an equal to the other dominant members of the group. As a city councilman from the second district, he too had a direct role in the progress of the district and its people. And although he was never quite seen as working as hard as the other dominant members, or as politically astute; he, some say, was never-the-less treated as an equal.

The man who was clearly considered the first among these equals became the arch enemy of Irby. No one knows the exact causes of the split, but the effects would soon become painfully clear. This first among equals invoked all the right symbols: physical size, money, gusto, brains, daring, courage — all the things that we Americans associate with power and success. In addition, he was successful as a politician and businessman.

When it was time for re-election to the city council seat that he held, Irby, running as part of a ticket that included the other elected leaders of the group, was accused of not carrying his own weight. He did not raise his proportionate share of the campaign kitty. Nor, it was said, did he campaign as hard as the other members of the ticket.

When later confronted with these assertions, Irby blew-up, stormed out of the room, and returned to his glass pressure cooker to seethe and fester. By now he was almost an outsider in the others' mind, and probably, already one in his own mind.

Within the group, however, Irby did have one ally. His ally was a white woman who had been brought into a coalition of black and white forces within the second district. This woman was also a member of the city council, from the second district.

She had gotten her chance to be a part of the coalition because one brilliant member of the dominant political group graciously brought her in.

It is doubtful that this white woman could have won her city council seat alone, without the help of the group that had proved so strong in Baltimore. However, as part of this group's ticket, and because of her public relations ability, she was able to take on a measure of power in the district.

An agreement was struck. The agreement was that this woman's organization and the dominant political group, which had co-oped her in order to reduce intra-district rivalry, would never oppose each other for the same political office. This coalition proved effective for many years.

No one, at the time, ever imagined that these political "friends" would later become political enemies; mortal political enemies. Time has proven differently. As Irby's frustrations continued to rise, so did his efforts to break away from the group. He began to miss meetings, to openly complain that he was not appreciated, and most importantly, that the leaders of the group had lost touch with their people.

These early warnings were not heeded by the group, largely because, like Irby himself, they were not perceived as important.

It must be remembered that these matters, on Irby's side, were largely ones of personalities. However, among most politicians, and especially black ones, personalities seems to far outweigh substantive issues.

The sore that had now festered for so long finally burst, when Irby decided to oppose his own group's main leader, in the 1982 state senate race. With the help of large, very well financed, and powerful forces outside the group, and with considerable although unknowing help from his opponent, the incumbent senator himself, Irby unseated this main rival.

The word on election day 1982 was, "We got Bob and we're going to get "Du" too. What these opposing forces were really saying is, "We are going to break the back of this dominant political group, because it is too smart, too knowledgeable, and too unified."

Now with election 1983 just weeks away, the same forces that "got Bob" are working hard to defeat City Council President Clarence "Du" Burns. Ironically, the person that Irby and others have placed in the current race to "get" "Du" is the same white woman that "Du" brought into the coalition to stop intra-district fighting.

This woman has said that if fallen council president Wally Orlinsky were running for re-election to the seat of council president, she would not be a candidate. The fact that it is "Du" Burns who is the candidate makes no difference to her. The implication here is strikingly clear.

Who gets hurt in all this political non-sense? Certainly not Irby, he has his senate seat for at least another three years. Ms. Clarke will not be hurt; for she had long made-up her mind that it was either up-or-out of the city council. She can always return to teaching school.

Nor will incumbent City Council President "Du" Burns be hurt; he has paid his dues magnificantly. Deposed State Senator Douglass will not hurt; he is still financially and politically a strong man. The only people who will be hurt as the result of all this political infighting will be the people of this city.

No matter that twelve years of political progress will go down the drain. But as the old African proverb states, "When the elephants stampede, the ants get crushed. This is politics and power, or is it?

AFRO Survey

Would you like to go into space?

Gail Broughton

Charles Raleigh

Martin Cruise

Tiera York

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "If the opportunity presented itself, would you like to go into space?"

Gail Broughton, 26, cashier, "I wouldn't mind. I've never been on a plane, however. I want to go as high as I can get, beyond space if I can. I'd discover the unknown. It'd make a good conversational piece."

Charles Raleigh, 31, private detective, "No! It's dangerous enough in planes. Shucks, you go way up there and there is no telling what might happen. I understand that space travel is supposed to be a common thing soon. I'll wait."

Martin Cruise, 46, State Dept. of Education, "Yes. I think it would be exciting to explore new frontiers. It'd be pretty interesting. From going out into space, man can create inventions that can be used to benefit and advance our lifestyles."

Tiera York, 18, salesperson, "No. I don't know what's there. I'd be frightened. Besides, there is no significance in going into space. It seems like everytime someone does, it rains."

Barbara Anderson, 34, equal opportunity assistant, "Nope. I don' even like to fly. There, of course, is some significance for scientists going into space because it helps people. Sorry, I'm not going."

Gwendolyn Bruce, 26, manager, "No. The very thought is not agreeable with me. I don't think going into space benefits anybody. They just don't have anything else to do."

Diane Gass, 26, salesperson, "I'm not an adventure person. I'm satisfied with being where I am. Someone else can go and tell me about it."

Charles Hamlin, 32, C&P employee, "Yeah. I'd love to go. There is something out there I know I just got to get my hands on. A star, a golden star that I must reach is out there. You see space is symbolic for me. I reach for those stars."

Barbara Anderson

Gwendolyn Bruce

Diane Gass

Charles Hamlin

FROM SEED TO FRUIT: Charm City trick or treat

Halloween can be everyday for many of us if we are not people of love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice. Trick or treat?

We are told in the New Testament of THE BIBLE in the very first words in the Book of John that in the beginning was the word. Words are very important, more important than too many of us seem to understand. Words are symbols. They symbolize or represent persons, places, things, ideas, descriptions, and expressions. Words are literal and figurative. Words create perceptions, conceptions, exceptions, receptions, and deceptions. Words connote and denote. Words can lead or mislead.

Too many meaningless words have confused us (disunited us) instead of fused us (united us). We have been told that each one of us should do his or her own thing. Instead of each of us doing our separate things, we must do more things together. Last year, a popular "rap" record with our youth entitled "The Message" repeated, " Sometimes, it makes me wonder how I keep from going under." The message to our youth and for all of us should be uplifting thoughts, not thoughts of "going under," sinking, being engulfed, or swallowed up. The message to our youth and to all of us should be about self improvement and self-determination.

The message to our youth and to all of us should emphasize that we must maintain, obtain, and attain. Right now, a popular record among our youth, states that "it is like that, that's the way it is." There is more than one way to see things or do things. There is more than one reality. I define reality as what I perceive things to be. We must stop being narrow thinkers and instead we must expand our minds.

The Creator has provided us with a balanced universe. However, there is too much imbalance among us. There is great confusion (disunity) among too many of us. However, there is also growing fusion (unity) among some of us. Some positive people that I know, recognize that there are many possibilities to be thought through and developed. Some of us believe that there are 360 degrees of truth and possibilities. We must not have our youth limit themselves nor must we limit ourselves. We must accept greater responsibility for our lives than we are. We must not limit ourselves with words which will lead us to very limited action or no action or to unproductive reaction. Our youth and all of us do not need misleading "raps" or messages. When a message is communicated that it's the way it is, we all must clearly understand that it is only one way that some things are- and not with everything or everywhere nor with everybody.

A friend of mine shared with me his insight when we talked of the Book of John, he stated that before the word, there has to be the thought. Most of us think, speak, and act. All of us need to think more before we act. We need to think positive thoughts and do positive actions as we speak more positive words. We all must say what we mean and mean what we say.

Baltimore for about ten years has been given the name Charm City. Some people now proudly speak of Baltimore as Charm City. What does the word charm connote or denote? When we call our city-charm city, are we speaking literally or figuratively? Is Baltimore City a city of enchantment, incantation, captivation, delight, attraction allurement, and or fascination? Is Baltimore a city where we can be subdued, bewitched, enticed, appeased, or soothed? Is Baltimore City a place that brings good fortune and or averts evil? IN BALTIMORE CITY, ARE WE UNDER THE SPELL OF THE CHIEF CHARMER OR MAGICIAN, THE PRESENT MAYOR OF BALTIMORE?

Why do so many of us want to be charmed? Are we dissatisfied with our natural existence as human beings? Are we so willing to be subdued because we do not want to be renewed in love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice? Are we so willing to be charmed and deceived that we do not conceive and perceive for ourselves? Are we so willing to be charmed and fascinated that we do not originate, accentuate, correlate, and evaluate for ourselves? Are we so willing to be residents of charm city that we have become mentally and spiritually lazy, and, therefore, look to magic rather than, look to ourselves? Do we truly understand that the unity of our people can truly be if we realize and recognize the magic of being ourselves.

The Shirelles, about 25 years ago sang, "My love is a charm, and it will keep you from harm. It will guide and protect..." Let us love, guide and protect ourselves. Let us remove ourselves and thinking from the notion of charms. As an older black man said about five years ago, let us take the first and last letters in our city's name and BE. If we truly be ourselves, we can transform confusion (disunity) into fusion (unity). We can accomplish this task and be, by being the best human beings that we can BE.

Halloween can be everyday for many of us if we prefer to live in a Charm City rather than be people of love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice. Trick or treat?

CHARLES A DUGGER

A reader's response

Dear AFRO:

I am disappointed to see that the AFRO has apparently fallen into the vote-black syndrome. I searched "Prospect For Black Majority Rule In Baltimore City" (OP-ED, July 16) for any evidence of black leadership being uniquely "progressive, humane, and responsive to the total citizenry," but my search was fruitless.

My suspicion that the headline of the article (by Sam Banks) was an editorial conclusion rather than an accurate representation of neutral facts seems to be well founded. The article, however, falls far too short of being a fair, unbiased model of investigative journalism. It promotes political assassination —civic disunity and strife — and emphasized racial politics.

Although black Baltimoreans have a new and extraordinary opportunity to elect their first black mayor, the political elements that swept through Chicago, L.A., and Gary, for example, are non-existent in Baltimore.

In Chicago, the electorate was polarized as a result of Epton's blatant campaign aimed at exploiting racial fears. In L.A., Mayor Bradley's popularity garnered over 55 percent of the vote —a city whose black population totals only 17 percent. In Gary, Indiana, Mayor Hatcher directed his campaign at mobilizing that city's new black majority rather than forging a black, white-liberal coalition as most black candidates do.

Mr. Murphy's campaign style parallel Mayor Hatcher's. Unfortunate for Mr. Murphy, Baltimore is not ready for this kind of politicking, and I believe that it will lead to his loss to Mayor Schaefer and possibly to the end of his nascent political career.

According to "Profiles and Analysis of the Vote by Political Experts" (OP-ED, July 23), Mr. Murphy is certain to win if "Blacks vote Black and Whites vote White." The glittering generality of this analysis seems like a treatise proferred from pride and prejudice. The accuracy of the analysis is questionable because the AFRO does not include who and what and where and when, etc. Furthermore, the voting statistics are not honest examples leading to a clear and vivid realization of the percentage of white votes cast for black candidates from each predominetly white preceinct. The analysis includes a substantial sampling error resulting from the upsurge of black voter registration and the unwarranted assumption that blacks will turn out in unprecedented numbers to vote black.

What both articles fail to emphasize is that white participation in a predominently black political spectrum will not diffuse or dilute the little black equity that will prevail when a black mayor is elected. On the reasonable assumption that Baltimore will one day elect its first black mayor, it is hoped that black leaders will not be overly concerned with preserving minor black gains and protecting their power, thus cutting the white community off at the political pass, because that type of politics will create problems...

I have weighed the pros and cons for weeks, thinking only in terms of what will best serve the interests of Baltimoreans, and I have come to the conclusion that the goals of a few opportunists are not worth the risk of undercutting Schaefer for mayor.

Mr. Murphy was a brilliant attorney and jurist, but his faux pas was to resign his judgeship at the behest of a few political sycophants riding on the coattails of his popularity.

In an earnest attempt to sound politically informed and analytical, it is my opinion that Mayor Schaefer will serve a fourth term and, if Mr. Clarence DuBurns establishes himself as City Council President, there is no doubt in my mind that he will inevitably succeed Mayor Schaefer as the first black Mayor of Baltimore City.

H. M. ALLEN

Will not address issues

Dear AFRO:

As a black voter in this City, I am very upset that some of our black elected officials are telling us to vote for Clarence "Du" Burns solely because of his race.

Why should we cut off our nose to spite our face and elect someone who will not address isssues or who is incapable of solving the problems facing our City when we have a far better choice in Mary Pat Clarke who is intelligent, dedicated and has proven her concern for all of the citizens of our City.

Recently he spoke to the membership of my community association and just one of the statements he made at the time was that he was tired of hearing about education as a campaign issue. On other occasions, Mr. Burns has stated that he cannot say anything against our education system because the majority of our teachers and administrators are black and he will not say anything that would make them look bad.

We cannot afford the luxury of elected officials who ignore problems for any reason.

I feel that qualifications and leadership are far more important qualities in choosing our representatives than the color of one's skin.

SHARON WATSON