Baltimore Afro American

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Miss Wheelchair America

The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN salutes Miss Gaynell Colburn, Miss Wheelchair Maryland and the newly crowned Miss Wheelchair America. Our whole state can be proud of her accomplishment.

Her victory over competitors from 12 other states and Puerto Rico is a tribute to her poise, intelligence, perseverance and triumph over tragedy. She displayed great inner beauty which distinguishes her pageant from the others that concentrate on external beauty.

Miss Colburn is educated and talented in the area of music. She is both a vocalist and a percussionist who has played with such luminaries as Bill Cosby, Stevie Wonder, and Lola Falana. She is also a performer with a local band.

Many Americans with physical handicaps are now demanding their rights and trying to sensitize the general population to their needs such as public transportation and access to buildings. They are also trying to educate the general population to the contributions they can make to society if they are given a chance.

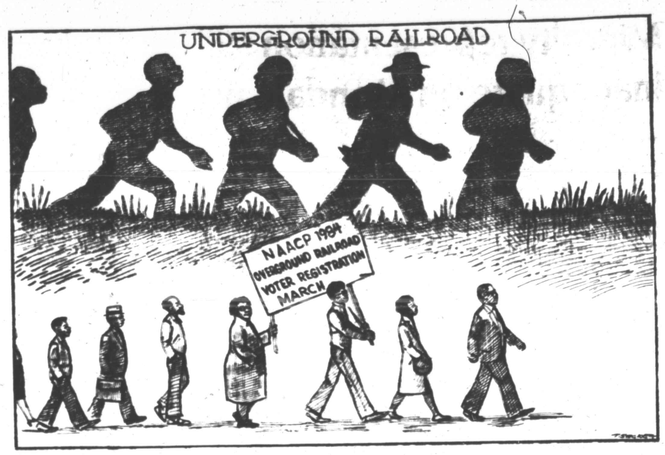
One of Miss Colburn's duties as Miss Wheelchair America will be to inform the public and be a role model for persons in similar circumstances. If her future efforts match her past then physically handicapped Americans will have a formidable national advocate.

Homebuyers beware

The recent rains have caused a great deal of damage to homes in the city and counties that lie in the flood plain. In the more severely affected areas local governments are buying homes that will in all probability be severely damaged by floods repeatedly in the future.

In some areas such as along Frederick Rd., many homeowners are bailing out before they face the prospect of continuing flood damage. For sale signs have sprung up repeatedly according to a number of calls received here at the AFRO. Some callers have said that some black people have expressed interest in buying a number of the flood prone houses.

The AFRO urges all of its readers to beware of purchasing any of the houses. A house is usually the largest investment that a person makes in a lifetime and a purchase of a house that is a perpetual flood risk can cause endless headaches. Damage to the structure and personal belongings can cause irreparable damage. Check with local government officials to see if your prospective house is in the flood plain. Everything that appears to be a bargain is not and a house that has a continuous flooding problem is far from a bargain.





Anthony Armstrong

Children of abusers

Why do people abuse their children? Is there ever a reason to hurt a child? What should happen to a person, any person, found to be responsible for harming an innocent child?

In a nation of laws, such as the United States, should our reactions to the abuse of children always be lawful? Do you have the right, under God's supreme law, to give 'an eye for an eye" to any person guilty of hurting a child?

Suppose, though, the abuser is the mother or the father of the child, then what? Suppose, as is so often the case, the abuser is someone the parent feels she needs (in the overwhelming number of cases the abused child is in the custody of the mother; far fewer cases exist where both natural parents of the child are together as a family) and is not willing to "give - up"?

What if the authorities, the social worker(s), bring their own peculiar set of personal, as well as professional, biases to the case. Under such circumstances, what validity can or should be given to any decision made about the child's well being — that have been made by these professionals?

Is there the need to rethink our tendency to almost always leave children in the hands of their mothers, in the first place. Has time and pressures, in the American society in general, rendered the traditional concept of maternalism outmoded? What about fathers; what should we be expecting from them apart from their age old role as the "bread winner?"

Questions, questions, questions. Problems, more problems, life threatening problems and; the children, the poor frightened children. You know, children are truly the most exciting and wonderful of all the human family. Old folks are great but, even old folks would agree that children are greater.

Teenagers are uniquely special too, yet even as selfish as their maturation forces them to be, teens would also concur that children are the greatest.

Adults, in the prime of life, wouldn't trade their status and independence for anything except being able to return to the best of being a child.

Where are the answers to the problems of child abuse American style? In this matter the "blind" should not be allowed to lead the "blind." Let's look outside America for our answers.

For instance, the peoples from many of the Western African nations have some interesting ways of positively solving problems relating to adult responses to children.

First, let's get something straight — the children are not the problem, we adults are the problem. They seem to know that in West Africa and so, it is not automatic to give the custody of the children to the mother.

In India, a country so poor most Americans could not live there, if a child, or that child's mother; is found to be abused the abuser is killed. No authorities are called, no trials are held, no social workers get involved — the abuser is simply killed. The responsibility is that of the child's independent guardian, a person who is neither the child's mother or father.

The Saudi Arabians publicly display their child abusers before they cut their hands off and then kill the abuser. They theorize that Allah will punish them for not punishing anyone who would harm his creation — a child. The Saudis incidentally have the lowest rate of child abuse of any nation in the world.

All these nations are very different places. No two handles anything the same except child abuse. These nations kill abusers, no trial, no social workers, no abuse. People in this world kill people who hurt children; people except Americans.

Letters

City and Shake and Bake

This current controversy in our city involving the City administration and the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center is a difficult, but in a real way, simple situation. The writer will first deal with what is in my estimation a very basic business decision on the part of a municipal government.

It has, it deemed, extended itself as far as it feels it can in a situation, in a real way, of its own creation.

The executive branch of government, in this particular instance, Mayor William Donald Schaefer against the advice of at least two of his closest financial advisors, chose to fund a project with a dubious future at best.

Caught, I feel, in a situation where considerable criticism from the black community regarding the low level of black (minorities if you will) participation in the financial fortunes of the "New Baltimore—Charm City."

Mayor Schaefer decided to show "them." The "them" being the larger community, black as well as white, that the City's financial division (i.e. Trustees) was fair and impartial. True to its business mission, the Trustees said, "No." True to his commitment to "minority" development and a "great guy"—Glen Doughty, Mayor Schaefer said, "Yes."

Therein lies the problem.

With the objection of the Trustees, stated publicly, and the regretable disinterest of the black community to any financial participation in this laudable, recreational project in an area with an unfavorable past image problem, there stood two firm, but for different reasons, believers—Glen Doughty and William Donald Schaefer.

One happens to be a young, energetic black person in business, the other a hard nosed Mayor who happens to be white. They both promised each other—the Mayor—"You have my total support (4.7 million dollars worth), just make your monthly interest payments."

The young black business entrepreneur, "I won't make you look bad, I'll make my payments." Well, the rest is history!

From a strictly business viewpoint, Shake and Bake is in serious financial trouble, over $700,000 worth now, and by 1986 if present trends continue, $10 million dollars worth. Who picks up the tab? You—me, black—white, male—female—in short, the taxpayer.

This situation is financially unacceptable. At the same time, from a social commitment viewpoint, Mayor Schaefer is having some problems because this bad business deal has been identified by a vocal minority (black and white) as a retrenchment on black economic development. This criticism does not hold water in this case.

We all realize that this is a great deal of money to spend on any one project when there are so many other, likewise deserving projects that could use the funding. Does the parable hold true here "Why throw in good money after bad"?

How will this situation be resolved? Well, this writer absolutely believes that Shake and Bake must make a real and substantial effort to meet its financial obligations. At the same time, all parties interested in the survival of the center (coalitions, ministers, politicians and business persons in the black community as well as our committed friends in the white community) must come forward to assist. The administration? Well, we'll have to see what develops.

But more importantly, our community—the black community—is being sorely tested again. Will we come forward to demonstrably help and render assistance or do we cry the blues?

Are we going to go as far as Mayor Schaefer has already gone in showing his elitist dubious commitment, in this instance, to black economic development? The future involvement of "our" community in the economic development of Baltimore City is at stake.

Will apprehension prevail when other developers who happen to be black present themselves to the City administration? Are we willing to gamble on a broadside against the City establishment for its lack of financial involvement among blacks—presently in our City, over a dubious economic investment?

Or, do we say, Glen, "find a way to pay these damn people," so that we can continue to press for something we really need, such as a true, viable share in the economic wealth of our "New Baltimore."

Sincerely,
NATHANIEL MCFADDEN

Significance of the November black vote

Jesse Jackson has publicly indicated his desire to campaign across the country. Mondale, quickly responded by asking Jackson to campaign with him in the south. Hopefully Jackson will do this since he received proportionately the largest number of black votes in the history of this country.

Jackson could have a powerful effect on converting unregistered voters to democratic voters. The number of unregistered black voters in the following states exceeds the Republican margin of victory in the 1980 presidential election; North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Kentucky.

The Mondale camp has targeted Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. These targeted states represent 36 electoral college votes.

Winning these states plus Texas with 29 electoral votes and 112 votes from states like Maryland who gave Mondale a significant primary vote, would give Mondale more than half of the 270 votes needed to win.

Jackson votes will make the difference if we can run successful "get registered and vote" drives in the states with high electoral votes and high numbers of black unregistered voters.

Among these states New York ranks first and Texas ranks second. New York is considered a Mondale based state. All Mondale needs there is good black support. Texas is up for grabs and therefore black support is critical there as it is in the other targeted states.

Maryland ranks 12th in numbers of unregistered black voters. Maryland has ten electoral votes that have traditionally gone to the democratic candidate. Maryland has experienced a stable growth since the 1980 election between the number of "hi-tech" industries that have moved in young adults between ages of 25 and 34 years.

Most of these persons are white and have not re-registered to vote in Maryland. While they add to the numbers of voters; the overwhelming number of unregistered voters continue to be blacks.

The 1980 presidential election survey material shows that only 50.4 percent of the black voting - age population in Baltimore City was registered and voted. This figure has enlarged significantly as a result of last year's mayoral race. However, there are still numbers of blacks who need to be registered and even more who need to be encouraged to vote.

It is true that there are rumblings in states among blacks who supported Jackson, that we should sit this election out. It passies me as to who would want to drop the ball just as we get to the goal line.

It seems to me that the Mondale - Ferraro campaign has made concerted efforts to recognize the importance of the Jackson vote by including blacks in their campaigns. Now with the request for Jackson to campaign with him, he appears to be moving on his request to include blacks.

In addition to the need to capture the young, unregistered black voters, women are the largest source of voting power. Women make up 60 percent of the country's voters. At this time, women favor Mondale over Reagan in all the polls.

Black women are a vital source of support. They are consistently more discriminated against than either white females or black males. In the primary, Jackson received a large block of white and black female votes.

So you see we do have a large roll to play. If we sit it out we have everything to lose. We are already locked out of the Republican party. Why should we lock ourselves out of the Democratic party? If we get in there and make the difference, we can collect on a heavy debt the party will owe us for the first time in history.

If Reagan gets back in because of our lack of effort, he will appoint supreme court judges. Remember they go in for life and in future years when Democrats get in the White House, we will be still stuck with them.

In order to cut deficits, it is clear that Reagan will reduce jobs in the public sector. This time middle class blacks will be greatly affected. In turn all those in business for themselves including doctors and lawyers, will suffer because they rely on the public sector for business.

Blacks will be set back financially several decades. Poverty will increase since black - women are always the lowest paid, yet compromise the largest number of heads of households.

As cities move more and more toward a predominately - older population, education and other services necessary for black survival will suffer as white taxpayers reduce the dollars needed.

Much of our future seems tied to the November race. Regardless of the outcome, let us be able to take comfort in the fact that we did our very best.

HELENA S. HICKS



Casting the first stone—a rebuttal

"He who is without sin . . . , let him first cast a stone at her."—John VIII:7.

Last week Samuel L. Banks, who eminently shares this space every other week, made some harsh judgements about Vanessa Williams, the Miss America who lost her crown after 10 months, for reasons known to everyone.

Dr. Banks calls Miss Williams' poses which were printed in Penthouse Magazine "tasteless, revolting and repellent" and the reasons she gave for them as "insufficient and sorely lacking in credulity."

He questions especially whether she can use her youthfulness when she posed for the pictures, since she was then 18 years of age. Such excuse he dismisses as "balderdash." Miss Williams' point, that she was promised by the photographer that her features would never be revealed, he also classifies as "balderdash."

Dr. Banks probably is not aware of the atmosphere and environment in which those who aspire for a career as models find themselves (less so those who aspire for a career in the theatre). It is entirely euphoria, with all kinds of "operators" from photographers up and down, who promise the skies and the U.S. mint.

Surrounded by other applicants, both alive and photographic, who have submitted to certain kinds of photography, it is very easy to "go along," to be regular." All this aided by an assortment of extra props.

It is very easy to succumb in such an atmosphere for a 19-year-old or one older. This "going along" is also pressured by the reality that in modeling as for the stage many are called, but so few are chosen.

Below the reputable "operators" are scallions of the other kind, with just enough success to their credit to use as bait to attract many, perhaps most, of those who aspire....

Dr. Banks pontificates that "I believe that Ms. Williams clearly understood the act and implications of disrobing and posing in a highly suggestive and spurient manner singly and with another woman. She was not hoodwinked or coerced in terms of her reprehensible and gaucho behavior."

The man speaks of more than he knows. Many other people will prefer to believe Miss Williams and to recognize the pressures on her once she was bitten by the ambition to enter the modelling world and the world of the theatre.

The Vanessa Williams case invites understanding and compassion; not pity, first, because the lady will probably make as much money being the "Ex-Miss America" as she would have made being Miss America for the entire 12 months she was to reign.

For the Penthouse photographs, taken two years before she became Miss America, she has been the object of enough fingerpointing, enough holier-than-thou asperations.

On one contention it is easy to agree with Dr. Banks: that the dethroning of Miss Williams is no occasion "for collective guilt and sack cloth and ashes" on the part of the mass of black Americans.

It is her grief and that of her immediate family, and even they must shake off their depression, pick up the pieces and continue living—as Miss Williams indeed is already doing, professionally.

Then, there is another and most important factor, as some other writers have pointed out: The more blacks are given the opportunity to compete in all areas of American life, the more blacks there will be who sometimes fail or "come short." For blacks it will be also true that "You can't win them all."

Fortunately and racially, in the case of the 1983 Miss America Pageant, the runner up is also black—and beautiful—and Suzette Charles (Miss New Jersey) has automatically ascended to the throne, and will place the crown whomever becomes the Miss America next month.

AFRO SURVEY

How do you feel about the Shake and Bake situation?



Ronald Johnson



Michelle Denton



Daniel Stewart



Arthur Scott

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Since the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center is having trouble paying back its loan, do you think the city should take over management of the facility?"

Ronald Johnson, 16, student, "Not really. Glen wanted that center there for a purpose—to help us kids. He's still doing that. If the city should take it over, that same care and concern offered by Mr. Doughty may not be there."

Michelle Denton, 25, nursing assistant, "No! Now I agree the center may be in the wrong area, but it shouldn't be taken over by the city. Maybe more of an effort to clean up the area by the city would be more receptive. I think more time should be given for the loan to be repaid."

Daniel Stewart, 25, student, "I don't think the city should take over management because the center has been very good for the immediate community. On the other hand, if they can't meet the loan the city just might have to take it over."

Arthur Scott, 24, student, "No. I think Glen should begin some sort of fundraiser. Why there are a whole lot of kids around who would jump at the chance to help."

Horchell Jefferson, 33, stuffer, "The loan should be extended. That was a real good effort of Doughty to attempt to get kids off the street. I just feel that if the mayor can grant other businesses extensions and other kinds of pardons, so should he for Shake and Bake. If for nothing more, for the black community who want it and appreciate it."

Darlene Smith, 21, cashier, "No. The center hasn't even been there for three years. It hasn't had time to raise the kind of money it needs to pay the city back what its asking. Give them more time."

Martin Walker, 23, mechanic, "What the city is attempting to do is to take something away from blacks. There are not many black businesses now. I say give the man more time. But I'll tell you. I believe the center is making enough money to pay back the loan. I think there is something funny going on in management—maybe embezzlement?"

Aaron Allen, 18, assistant manager, "Give Glen more time to pay off the debt. The business is a plus to the community. If the city takes over, the mayor may hike the prices to where we can't afford them."



Horchell Jefferson



Darlene Smith



Martin Walker



Aaron Allen

REPORTER'S REPORT

By R. B. Jones

What's love got to do with it

In a distant, almost forgotten time when I was a youth, love and sex were weighty matters. As a child growing up, love was a matter of drama and tragedy and supposedly happy endings. Ray Charles moaned "I Can't Stop Loving You" for the number one position on the music charts for about ten weeks.

The urgency of the sex drive was masked in many songs such as the Four Tops' "Baby, I Need Your Lovin'", which is a perfect dramatization of intense sexual longing.

Lou Rawls illustrated the truism that love carries a heavy price with his classic "Love Is A Hurting Thing" which had the classic lines "For Every Little Kiss, There's A Little Teardrop. For Every Little Thrill There's Another Heartache."

The thrill of gratification was there along with the pain of loss. The dichotomy was ever present. Pleasure and responsibility existed with abandonment and misplaced affections. Smokey Robinson sang of regret in "Who's Loving You?" He sang of loving unwisely in his classic "You Really Got A Hold On Me."

This brilliant song has as a first line "I don't like you but I love you,seems that I'm always thinking of you. You treat me badly, I love you madly; you really got a hold on me."

In our youth, we did not know that Smokey was talking about being addicted to someone sexually because we dealt with euphemisms for sex such as the word loving.

In the time of the so-called sexual revolution, a call was made for honesty. The romantic notions that had been attached to sexuality when I was an adolescent, were attacked.

When I was a teenager, we lusted mightily but there was a stylized courting ritual. There were stages leading up to intimacy in most cases. There had to be an exchange of gestures of respect and acknowledgement.

There was anticipation and drama because the consummation of the romance was not always assured. There was an excitement about it and a romantic aura even if the affair were ultimately only based on lust.

Rick James sings songs about coming home drunk and demanding that his woman give it to him anyway. He also sings a song about a sexy seventeen year old girl. I infer from the song that he gave in to temptation.

It had to be purely instinct because it is difficult to imagine a man in his mid-thirties having a romance with a seventeen - year old, unless she was mature for her age or he was immature for his.

At the present, there seems to be a certain heartlessness in much of the music and in many associations between people. The songs with the term freak in them do not exude affection and sensuality, but rather the instinctive couplings of animals.

Now I hear little children and teenagers singing along with Tina Turner's "What's Love Got To Do With It?" They belt out the lyrics with almost as much gusto as Tina when she calls love a second hand emotion.

That is a very cynical refrain for a youngster to be repeating at a time when he or she should be discovering the matchless intoxication of young romance.

Before the disillusionment and world weariness that tarnishes our adult romances in many cases sets in, the young should experience the passion that is hottest because it is pure and just discovered.

Much of the music that the young listen to does not foster romance and much of our adult hypocrisy has helped to breed an atmosphere of heartless coupling. When I was young, sex was camouflaged, despite the beauty of the illusion, in a very dishonest way.

After the sexual revolution, we have made it visible and brutal but still not honest. It is not bound to love as I was taught when I was young, but neither is it merely an itch to be scratched as some popular music would have us believe.

When "What's Love Got To Do With It?" plays and I hear many young people singing it, I am inclined to answer that the two people the song talks about with racing pulses, should love themselves first and if they are to be lovers for just one night, hopefully, they will find some small thing about each other they can love.

Happy Birthday Marcus Garvey

By C. A. Dugger

August 17, 1984 is the ninety-seventh birthday of Marcus Mosiah Garvey. Happy Birthday, Marcus Garvey!

Born in Jamaica nearly one hundred years ago, Marcus Garvey emerged to become the leader of the greatest mass movement of black people that this planet, we are told, has ever seen. Marcus Garvey created the Universal Negro Improvement Association (the U.N.I.A. to organize and inspire black people.

He encouraged black people to always move forward with his consistent theme "One God, One Aim, and One Destiny! "It is very noteworthy to say that the U.N.I.A. still exists today.

Inspired by Booker T. Washington's autobiography: Up From Slavery, Marcus Garvey came to the United States from Jamaica to meet Booker T. Washington. However, ironically, Booker T. Washington died before Garvey could meet him.

Garvey stayed in the United States and vigorously communicated to black people that they must organize and become full of self-pride and become self-sufficient.

Garvey visited many states in the United States to raise the consciousness of black people as well as to become more knowledgeable of the Black American Experience.

Garvey came to the United States at the time when lynchings, overt racism, unemployment, economic hardships, and social injustices were being felt by many black people. Instead of hopelessness, he gave our people hope.

Instead of complaining about the plight of black people, he began explaining what black people had to do. He consistently challenged our people with these words — Up you mighty race, accomplish what you will!"

Garvey told our people to care about what happens to us and don't let anyone scare us into inactivity and moral decline.

Garvey challenged us to study our people's past greatness. He said that not only were we once great people, but that we will be great people once again. Garvey said that we should go back to Africa, our Motherland.

He said that if we cannot return to Africa: let us make Africa be an important part of our existence here in the United States or wherever we as black people live.

Garvey emphasized that too many of us, black People, are not at peace with ourselves because we have abandoned African values, culture and tradition for this unnatural culture that we have associated, assimilated and integrated into.

Marcus Garvey was serious about black people uniting and separating ourselves from Caucasian culture and values. He organized black doctors, black nurses, and began a black army.

He started a newspaper and a factory. He purchased, at least, three ships for the purpose of commerce and travel for our people. He gave speeches and led parades and demonstrations to inspire us.

Gladly, Garvey lived during a time, very similar to today, when there were too many black people in "leadership" or "prestigious" or "status," or "comfortable" positions who felt threatened by Marcus Garvey.

Consequently, these negative black people did all they could to discredit and destroy Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association.

Moreover, Garvey was sent to U.S. federal prison for mail-fraud and was later deported from the United States. He died at the age of 53 years in England —heartbroken as well as physically sick.

Marcus Garvey said, "It is obvious, according to the commonest principles of human action that no man will do as much for you as you will do for yourself."

Marcus Garvey stated, "Black men and women, you were once great, you shall be great again. Lose not courage, lose not faith, go forward. The thing to do is to get organised . . ."

Marcus Garvey exclaimed, "We say to the white man who now dominates Africa that it is to his interest to clear out of Africa now, because we are coming . . . . 400,000,000 strong!"

Marcus Garvey emphasized, "You can be educated in soul, vision, and feeling, as well as in mind. To see your enemy and know him is a part of the complete education of man, to spiritually regulate one's self is another form of higher education that fits man for a nobler place in life and still - to approach your brother by the feeling of your own humanity is an education that softens the life of the world, and makes us kind indeed. Many a man was educated outside the school room."

Marcus Garvey related "We are the only people in the world who laugh at our misfortunes and show no interest in our collective selves."

Marcus Garvey challenged us, inspired us, and left a path for us to follow.

Until his death, he worked enthusiastically and diligently for our people. What are we doing for our people? What have we done for our people. It is long past the time that we unite and go forward as a people.

Marcus Garvey was a great Pan African leader just as was W. E. B. DuBois, his contemporary. However, these two great men could not get along. DuBois and his fellow intellectuals of the time seemed to feel threatened by Garvey and his movement.

Let us not be or feel threatened by each other anymore, brothers and sisters. Let us get along with each other. Let us unite to journey together along the positive, natural road of life as we go forward as a us! "Up you mighty race, accomplish what you will!"

This Saturday, August 18, 1984, tomorrow, in the Harlem Park, there will be held the thirteenth annual Marcus Garvey Day from 12 noon to 6 p.m. There will be music, art, poetry, an African marketplace, games for the youth and positive vibrations.

Please do not bring drugs or alcoholic beverages in Harlem Park on Marcus Garvey Day. Please join us! U you might race, accomplish what you will!"