Baltimore Afro-American

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Subsidize the pools?

At 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, the official weather temperature in Baltimore City was 84 degrees, with humidity at 73 percent. Following three consecutive days of over 100 degree temperatures, it seemed pleasantly balmy.

But scorching weather or not, it was an ideal time to immerse the body in cooling water, and if you live in the inner city, the public pools present the ideal opportunity.

But this year, there is a difference. There is a fee attached to using public swimming pools, albeit a small one. While our city fathers who imposed the fee system cite the many benefits expected to result from a new funding source, there are a lot of inner city youngsters who are denied, for lack of funds.

The unescapable fact of the matter is that the vast majority of those using public park pools are from the inner city. After all, those who are in middle-class family situations, have pools at their apartment complexes, or other private facilities.

Maybe this is a good time for the corporate sector, which is always seeking a way to relate to the community, to underwrite admissions to the public swimming pools.

Just as admissions to the City Fair are made available to city residents via many different routes, so could admissions to public pools.

It's worth a thought.

About Miss Liberty

The hoopla, hype and glitter has subsided following the allout "Miss Liberty" celebration, and in retrospect, it is painfully obvious that blacks were not simply overlooked in the pageantry, they were ignored.

But then, this should not be surprising, since blacks arrived on these shores a full century before Ellis Island became a place for processing immigrants.

Perhaps since blacks were brought to this country involuntarily, they do not qualify as immigrants and have no status at all. Activists who have dared to voice this sentiment, have been roundly pooh-poohed and shunted aside.

But for three days, through our marvelous medium of television, the airways were saturated with hour after hour of laudatory presentations of salutes to Miss Liberty.

No hour was devoted to a delineation of black patriots and their contributions to the development of this country. It is no wonder then that black youngsters are rapidly becoming more and more disenchanted with the role of blacks as viewed through the eyes of the majority.

The Miss Liberty weekend is being hailed as an unqualified success — but not in the black community.

Rebuff on affirmative action

The administration has consistently harped on the "colorblind" theme as a method to rectify past racial discrimination in employment. The administration has advanced the facetious argument that "affirmative action" is discriminatory in itself because it penalizes those who had nothing to do with historic practices of job discrimination.

This is no more than double-talk because past discrimination in the workplace can never be rectified if the same pattern in employment continues. The so-called majority group will always dominate because seniority in job status will perpetuate the imbalance and the disadvantage will continue in the same pattern.

The Supreme Court has debunked the administration's argument in two cases by upholding a court-approved settlement between the city of Cleveland and minority firefighters. In the New York case a federal court required a local union to meet specific minority hiring targets.

The high court dismissed the administration's contention that only the individual victims of discrimination can benefit from affirmative action. But civil rights groups and legal authorities said although the court did not resolve all points, its rulings were as clear as it has been on previous issues.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. said the rulings are a clear victory for affirmative action and equally reject the Reagan Justice Department argument on affirmative action for the last six years. Attorney General Edwin Meese, III, however, oddly enough conceded the decisions were a defeat.

On the other hand, Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds called the rulings "extremely limited." He added that there would be no change in the department's civil rights policies.

This disagreement between the two top Justice Department policymakers dilutes credibility and many legal experts consider the department at its lowest ebb in years. It should be recalled that the Senate Judiciary Committee recently rejected Reynolds to become associate attorney general, the number two official in the department.

Both Democratic and Republican committee members challenged Reynolds on the grounds of credibility. The basic issue involved whether a high government official used a double racial standard and lied about it when queried by duly constitutional authorities.

The Supreme Court rulings also cut the ground out from blustery chairman Clarence M. Pendleton, Jr. of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Pendleton has consistently harped on the bankrupt "colorblind" policy and inveighed against racial quotas as reverse discrimination. He has sought to justify this posture while denouncing veteran civil rights leaders whose records are impeccable in the never-ending battle against racial discrimination.

On a scale of one to ten, Pendleton's contribution in the field of civil rights would rate ten below zero. But far more significant that Clarence Pendleton personally is the incalculable damage he had done to the cause of civil rights. His density fails to recognize that Reagan's racial policies would negate all progress made during the past decade in this area. The Reagan policies on school lunches and education, to name a few, primarily thwart the progress of blacks and other minorities throughout the rest of this century and even beyond.

The administration's two top legal officials, Meese and Reynolds, publicly said they are sworn to uphold affirmative action, but achieving that goal through affirmative action by the way of the quota system is reverse discrimination. It should be noted that the Justice Department has participated in several civil rights lawsuits as a "friend" of the court.

The Supreme Court has clearly seen through this hypocrisy and temporarily knocked the pins out from under the foes of racial equality. The system of "checks and balances" at least in this case, has checked the excesses of this administration before Reagan appointees begin to dominate the high bench and throw legal roadblocks in the way of all racial progress.

Parren J. Mitchell

Committee terminates CRC

On June 26, the House Appropriations Committee voted to adopt an amendment offered by Congressman Julian Dixon (D-Calif.) to eliminate funding for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (the Commission) was created by the Civil Rights Act of 1957 as an executive branch agency to monitor the status of civil rights in this country.

Although it lacks enforcement authority, it received a mandate from Congress to investigate and report on denials of equal protection and opportunity on account of race, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

Until the Reagan era, the Commission often criticized inadequate Federal laws and policy proposals to protect those fundamental rights of all citizens by whatever administration was in power, but in May, 1983, President Reagan responded to criticism by replacing three commissioners.

They maintained views on affirmative action in direct conflict with his, with three carefully selected persons who share the administration's opposition to racial quotas, entitlement programs, and other prescriptions for past and present civil rights violations.

Since its reorganization in 1983 the Commission has conducted only three civil rights hearings and has issued only one report. In late March, the General Accounting Office reported finding numerous irregularities at the Commission, including severe personnel and financial mismanagement.

Such inactivity and utter disregard for a Congressional mandate to investigate civil rights enforcement coupled with fraudulent internal accounting practices, substantiates concerns by many of us in Congress and forms the basis for efforts to defund the Commission.

Notwithstanding the charges against the Commission, Republican Chairman Clarence M. Pendleton Jr., the most prominent black in the Reagan administration, has been the subject of several embarrassing newspaper stories about his nefarious activities and even criminal investigations by the California attorney general's office.

These stories have revealed Pendleton's established pattern of "using government programs designed to help the poor and black to enrich himself and a few close associates," as reported in an article published by **The New Republic**.

In his zeal for money-making ventures, Pendleton even attempted forming a phony minority front firm in 1980 with two white businessmen to win contracts with the government through the minority set-aside program.

One article points out that Pendleton has turned a traditionally part-time Commission position into a full-time job which allowed him to rake in $67,300 in salary with an additional $22,000 in reimbursed expenses for speeches made around the country last year.

Pendleton also placed on the Commission as his special assistant a longtime associate, Sydney Novell, to a less than full-time position which provided her a $41,300 salary and an extra $14,500 in expenses incurred last year.

Prior to coming to the Commission, Pendleton resigned from his post as President of the San Diego Urban League, leaving that organization in economic shambles with missing and/or incomplete accounting records, including an unexplained expenditure of $50,000, and a total organization deficit of $179,000.

Not only has the Commission, under the leadership of Clarence Pendleton been inactive in protecting civil rights, many of its members on the contrary have been very active voicing their contempt for those of us who advocate affirmative action and other remedies for civil rights infringements, such as set-aside programs for minority contractors, and hiring goals and timetables for industries which have traditionally maintained low percentages of minority employees.

In late April, the Commission prepared a 96-page report recommending a one-year moratorium on existing set aside programs which seek to assist potential minority and women entrepreneurs doing business with the Federal government as part of a much larger scheme by the Administration to discredit the minority business community.

Due to glaring inconsistencies, biased unfounded allegations, and public denouncements by the small business community and members of Congress, the Commission wisely voted not to submit the report to the President and instead directed its staff to revise it.

In the final analysis, a vote to defund the no longer independent Commission and oust its notorious Chairman is a vote to preserve the remaining gains made by the civil rights movement in this country.

Anthony Armstrong

Poor child, dead child

It starts out with an angry, frustrated, vindictive parent. It ends with the death of a child. The issues are fought-out in a courtroom; the adults involved in the horrible treatment of the child are either found guilty or innocent. Yet, the child is dead.

"Poor child, dead child" is happening with a regularity that is scary. The reasons for the infanticide are blended into the other social problems of the day, and become diluted by our already overburdened capacity to be shocked.

The professionals explain how such things can occur, and their explanations add one more page to the volumes already penned about mankind's abhorrent behavior, toward himself and his brethren.

That a child is dead becomes almost anticlimatic, in the swamp of legal battles and dull academic treaties. Yet, the child is dead.

The mother said the boyfriend did it. We have yet to hear from the boyfriend. The baby's father expresses his mournful hurt, for the loss of his daughter; and states his lack of any pardon for the child's mother. The mother's lawyer builds a defense based on his client's fear for her own life, at the brutal hand of her "friend", her "lover", her "man." Yet, the child is dead.

We know the players in this ugly set of events. What we don't know is how the lives of these two adults, the mother and this male, could have become so whatever they are, that they could be so full of hatred, so full of cowardice.

We hear so many women's protestations, nowadays, about how much they love their children. In the face of the far too often terrible events that befall too many children today; we must wonder, as did Shakespeare, almost six hundred years ago, whether these mothers "doth protest too much"?

In their torrid utterences, their attempts to be believed, there seems, all too often, to be a drop of guilt, and almost the essence of the lie.

She wants her baby and thus an abortion is out of the question.

No matter that she doesn't care if the father of the child lives or dies; for, his only role was to provide the thrill that started the process of conception. No matter that now the child is born, is here, and can't be returned to the warmth of the womb.

For the boyfriend, this thing the woman becomes so involved with, the matter of the baby, someone else's baby, becomes a matter of discipline, control, of power over.

This sick person (I refuse to award him the title of a man) is given total license over the life of a precious child. And for what?

Usually, as a trade-off; moma gets a bed partner that will help her maintain her sickness and anger; the "not-worth-a-dog" male gets a life to gain much satisfaction from destroying.

Many males in this city get the charge of their lives from hurting defenseless people; some gain almost climatic surges from hurting small children, especially. They seem to have a radar's knack for identifying the weak women who will allow them to practice their sin, or these women's children.

And for what? Because "she can't do without him", or "she was afraid that if she tried to stop her infantile lover, he would kill her." Well, if anyone must be killed, better her than the helpless, blameless child.

All these child beatings, and burnings just can't be placed in our minds' under the catch-all cover of a mother's seemingly, unbridled desires, or her overwhelming fears; or under the heading of "he was a sick and cowardly, good-for-nothing male."

Many of these instances have to go under another heading; that heading is: most of these women never wanted the child, in the first place.

These people are so maddened by their own mistreatments of their own lives, that anything that resembles something good and wholesome is total anathema to them. Many such women have children just for the purpose of hurting them; "like I've been hurt."

Many such men involve themselves with such women in order to join, what must be for them, the sickeningly satisfying "hurt the baby party." From the morbid number of these occurrences, one would have to surmise that these adults are having the time of their lives. Yet the child is dead.

What shall we do about all these "accidential" child killings, that almost invariably turn out to be murder, pure and simple, murder? Shall we restrict who can have children? Shall we become more willing to admit that what we see are not accidents but calculated exercises in destruction?

Shall we begin to rethink the almost automatic policy of giving the children to the care of their natural mothers? Shall we make the price for child abuse and murder the swift and certain death of those who commit these crimes, against God's children?

The answers are not in my typewriter; sadly, I wish they were. Yet, the answers are not so hard to discern as to be beyond any of us. The whole society has found ways to make everything acceptable.

We accept all the natural wrongs; it seems that their explanation on the morning Donahue Show gives them social status, make them alright to do, as long as no one else is hurt. Yet, the child is dead.

The latest child to die because his mother, or her boyfriend, needed to vent can't be just laid to rest in vain. That child, all children, need to be avenged. The response to this situation is best left to God, who admonishes us thusly: vengeance is mine, saith the Lord." But here on Earth we too must find a way to end poor child, dead child.

Samuel L. Banks

The time has come: election of Sachs-Mitchell

The election of the next governor and lieutenant governor of Maryland will have, in my view as a parcticing professional historian and educator, far-reaching crucial and historic consequences for all citizens of Maryland.

I believe the plan, spirit and energetic direction of the Sachs — Mitchell team with the theme, "One Maryland," provides a highly positive and progressive emphasis for Maryland in the present and future. I believe, the Sachs — Mitchell team deserves not only to be elected by a majority of Maryland's electorate, black and white, but is most worthy of election.

Why, then, should the Sachs — Mitchell team, based on a factual and empirical rendering be elected rather than the Schaefer — Steinberg team?

The position papers, especially on education, put forth by Attorney General Sachs place demonstrable support for public education as the "centerpiece" for the economic rejuvenation of Maryland and amelioration of the quality of life for all citizens.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer's position is one largely of advocacy of Civiletti 3A and that there is sufficient money in the state's coffers to fund education for all students equitably.

The reality is that there is little likelihood, in the forseeable future, for the passage of Civiletti as the Maryland General Assembly is constituted.

What, then, does Mayor Schaefer offer as an alternative beyond poohpoohing Attorney General Sachs' educational proposal as being unworkable and unrealistic? Unfortunately, nothing, beyond nay--saying and pining for Civiletti 3A has come forth.

Attorney General Sachs is clear and straightforward as to his position: *"Public education is and will be my highest priority as Governor of Maryland. No issue is more central to the lives of Marylanders."*

He proposes a one cent sales tax, earmarked for public education, in order to develop a financial base to undergrid and extend equity and excellence for all children and youths in Maryland's public schools, especially black and poor school districts.

It must, too, be noted that in terms of socio-economic indices available to historians, social scientists, journalists and the general public, the "Comfort Index" or quality of life for citizens in Baltimore, as measured by education, health care, unemployment, ranks near the bottom percentile of major American cities of 500,000 citizens or more.

Mayor Schaefer provided evidence of Baltimore's lamentable and lugubrious plight in public testimony before members of the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress on Tuesday, March 8, 1983.

A flow-chart utilized by Mayor Schaefer depicted the following demographic factors pertaining to Baltimore in 1982:

1. 50,600 unemployed.
2. 40,000 out-of-work minority youths.
3. 240,000 cannot survive without some public assistance.
4. 80,000 poor elderly.
5. 27,000 unemployment insurance recipients.
6. $5.97 property tax rate.
7. 44,000 waiting for public housing and the jails are overflowing.

Four years later, as regards Mayor Schaefer's grim statistics, the major change is that the conditions have worsened. While Mayor Schaefer, as the historical records shows, has given sustained, concentrated and admirable leadership from 1971 to the present brick and mortar development of Baltimore, the human infrastructure has suffered.

The Sachs — Mitchell team seeks a balance between economic development and human services and opportunities for all.

While education is the centerpiece of their focus, attention is also given to decent, safe, sanitary and afforable housing, intense and aggressive outreach for additional Federal and state support, tax reform, a firm but humane criminal justice system, provision for job opportunities for youths and adults effective health care.

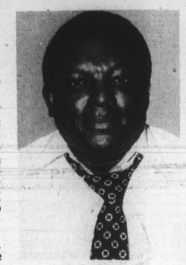
As a citizen of Maryland, you need to take a careful look at the track record of both Sachs — Mitchell team and the Schaefer — Steinberg team.

I beleive that the Sachs — Mitchell team's accentuation of equity and excellence in education for all children and youths represents a powerful and extremely significant factor for the current gubernatorial race. High quality education constitutes a basis for the generation of jobs, attraction of business and industry and improving the overall quality of life for all.

It is in this fundamental domain (i.e., education and economic development) that I believe the electorate should elect the Sachs — Mitchell team. You will have the opportunity on Tuesday, September 9, 1986, to make your own decision. It is now up to you to speak for yourself and your posterity.

AFRO SURVEY

Should cigarette ads be banned from magazines, etc.?



Ralph Lee

Jackie Dudley

Shirley Baker

Donald Watts

This week the question to the man and woman in the street is, "Should cigarette ads be banned from magazines and newspapers?"

Ralph Lee, 29, store manager, "I feel that cigarette ads should be banned because the more they put out cigarette ads the more people buy cigarettes, though they know that they can cause cancer."

Jackie Dudley, 25, store clerk, "Yes. I would say that they should be banned because I am not a smoker and cigarettes are bad for your health. It is also an influence on the people who do smoke."

Shirley Baker, 39, parent counselor, "Yes, I think the ads should be banned in newspapers and magazines. I think the advertising make the ads look glamorous and appealing. This makes young people want to smoke. I don't think that young people need that kind of false information. The ads are just false information."

Donald Watts, 26, recruiter, "No, they should not be banned. That's how the magazines and newspapers make money, I don't think it is bad for your health. It is called cause and effect. Because I smoke it is going to affect me. I really don't see any harm in the ads being in the magazines and newspapers."

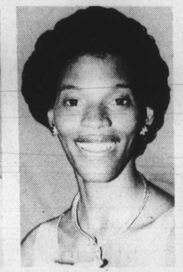
Donna Fitzgerald, 30, retail manager, "I don't think the ads should be banned. If you look at it from a money point of view. And as far as health is concerned, it gives the public the freedom of choice to decide if they want to smoke or not,"

Kelly Purdi, 26, transportation, "Yes the ads should be banned because people can get cancer from cigarettes, and advertisers are just as much killers as the cigarettes are. It is also a bad influence on the public."

Vickee Armstrong, 29, marketing research coordinator, "I don't think that they should be banned. I think the country is intelligent enough to make a choice between whether they want to smoke or not. If there is no detriment to the advertiser, I would say ban the ads and ban cigarettes all together."

Vanessa Johnson, 19, salesperson, "No, not really because it is no need to ban the ads. If people choose to smoke it is their choice. But because advertisers make a lot of money from the ads, I feel it would be unwise to smoke. But for health reasons cigarettes and the ads should have been banned a long time ago."

Donna Fitzgerald



Kelly Purdi

Vickee Armstrong

Vanessa Johnson

Tony Brown's Comments

The 4th of July

The 4th of July celebration is a reminder of the greatness and beauty of the concept of freedom, justice and equality. When we look up to the Statue of Liberty, we can feel this concept.

But if one of those who was involuntarily brought to these shores from Africa was an ancestor, you might have the feelings of regret mingling alongside the feelings of pride. You might even have a tear trickling down your face, because of a disappointing love affair with America.

African-Americans have fought for the right to die for a country that called them "cowards" and members of a "sub-species" in an official military document. Always, when the nation's interest was at stake, the second-class put country before race.

It reminds me of my seventh grade "love" affair, if it can be called that. For sure, I was in love with her (and I had an accelerated heartbeat to prove it), but she was tolerant of me at best. Even after the truth hit me like a two-ton truck, I still had this unmanageable heartbeat in her presence.

My country does that to me because of its benevolence to the foreign born; its ability to feed, clothe and house a population: the freedoms; the personal dignity that a citizen can enjoy; and, most of all, the Constitutional right and guarantee of free speech.

But on July 4th, 1986, while the country celebrated the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty and all that these two great institutions represent, I was once again reminded that in spite of my love for them, they only tolerate me — and those of my ancestry — at best.

Artis Lane is a great painter of African descent. Of a series of 12 paintings, she produced 12 poster-sized pictures in four colors. One of those 12 shows the head of a young Black boy, draped in the American flag, with the Statue of Liberty overseeing the scene.

The boy has a tear streaming down his left cheek. That's my tear and your tear, if you've not had the dream fulfilled. That's the tear of disappointment in love, the same tear I shed in the seventh grade.

But the Whites who distribute Lane's other 11 pictures won't touch "Liberty I." They want Lane, a Santa Monica resident, to remove the tear from his face. She refuses.

Like most of us who are Black and American, we refused to compromise our integrity and tell a lie of convenience. Many whites believe if we do, the truth will go away.

These art distributors will only allow the world to see their concept of America, based on their White privilege. By stamping out dissent, they believe that they can guarantee the rule of White racism.

They should understand that you can paint wings on a pig, but if you throw him off a building, he still can't fly. Truth crushed to earth, it is said, will rise again.

The truth is that African-Americans are not free in their own land. That doesn't mean you can't love your country, but it does mean that you are aware that she does not love you.

The relationship, at best, between Blacks and America is one of love and hate. And the tear will stain our faces until racism is destroyed.

Celebration of Liberty

I kept waiting Thursday night, July 3, 1986, for a fragment of President Reagan's "Celebration of Liberty" speech at the Ellis Island festivities that recognized and affirmed the unique position of the Black patriot in this country.

I kept waiting for a paragraph which said something like this:

"While the ancestors of the majority of us willing and gratefully migrated to these shores seeking a freedom of opportunity and expression they had not known elsewhere, there are those of us whose ancestors, as one of the tragedies of world history, were bartered without option to this land to spend their lives as victims in the pernicious institution of slavery.

"We can be proud and happy that before too long the spirit of freedom, symbolized by Miss Liberty, had so infused our country that we as a people were moved to break the shackles of slavery, including its aftermath — inequality before the law — and by the year 1986 great progress has been made and is being made toward undoing the national disgrace which slavery, racial segregation and discrimination have been in our national past.

"Today, all of us, including descendants of former slaves, join hands before the Mighty Lady and proclaim our common Americanism."

This is what I waited for, and I am still waiting.

DAVID E. SLOAN

Letters

Provident worker speaks

I am an employee at Provident Hospital, Inc. I want to publicly express my utter disgust and anger at the inhuman way that the employees of this institution have been treated.

First of all we who remain at Provident have continued to work there because we are dedicated and loyal employees and because we felt instrumental in providing good medical care for our community.

But, from the very beginning of the conflict which has ultimately led to Provident's demise, we have been ignored and shut out.

Until Friday, June 20, 1986 any information that we learned concerning the status of the hospital or any decisions which were being made concerning the hospital, we learned when the general public was informed, by way of the news media.

Now, I would like to tell the general public what many of us (remaining employees) have been feeling. We have been **"used," manipulated and degraded.**

At no time prior to June 20th, did Mr. Russell or any other public representative involved in the negotiations to save Provident, come to the employees to inform us of what was occurring.

On June 20th, several employees gathered in the executive suite at Provident to demand that we be told the truth about our job security.

On this date, Mr. Russell met with the staff of the hospital to inform us that in actuality Provident was not merging with Lutheran Hospital, but that Provident had been sold to Lutheran Hospital.

He at this time informed us that as of August 1, 1986, the approximately 500 employees who remain here will become unemployed.

So now we know the truth. We have been used and abused and tossed aside. But it's not over yet. Now they (whomever is presently pulling the strings) tell us that some of our benefits (mainly vacation time) that we have **earned** will not be paid. We will have to go through the **bankruptcy court as creditors** owed to get **monies for which we have put in long hard hours. That is the ultimate slap in the face.**

Now that I have given you some (Not all, just a few) of the frustrations that I am feeling as a single parent with no job, let me tell you what in actuality brought Provident to this point.

"For several years, Provident has had a Board of Directors which did not have any sense of leadership, business management, or loyalty to its community, its patients, its medical staff, or any of us who depended on them for strong, sound leadership.

This Board of Directors allowed one "Man" to almost singlehandedly destroy a **92-year-old family**, and let's not forget our **physicians** who promised to bring their patients back to Provident if this individual and "His" Board of Directors were dismissed.

They lied. Provident could be a thriving business today if this had happened, but it did not happen. Even the "Cat Scanner" which they fought so hard for was purchased and installation began.

So what was their excuse then. The patients were not willing to come to Provident. Yet, when a few weeks ago it was announced that there was to be a merger with Lutheran, the patient census jumped fourteen percent in a forty-eight hour period.

All of a sudden patients were willing to come to the same institution with the same staff, same equipment and same physicians who were there prior to the announcement.

And where were our **civic and religious leaders?** Most were sitting back waiting for the state to bail us out of our difficulties again. Where were our **famous politicians** who can fight for civil rights and aid to impoverished nations and justice for all?

How many of them can say that they were active in the struggle to save a 92-year-old institution built from the **blood, sweat and tears** of our parents and grandparents?

Where were our **ministers** who can raise money for any cause that's fashionable? We have churches (black churches) in the Baltimore area which boast memberships in the hundreds. Did any of them rally to raise money for this institution to help in the struggle.

They all seem to have forgotten that it wasn't so long ago that Provident Hospital was the only hospital that would accept a patient whose skin was **black. Be aware. It can happen again!!!!**

Thank you for allowing me to ventilate my frustrations and a few home truths. I sincerely hope that you will feel compelled to print this letter in its entirety or segments thereof.

I am not identifying myself because I know that my communication with the media is grounds for immediate dismissal. Unfortunately, I need these last few pay checks.

FED UP EMPLOYEE

Day of reckoning

It appears the "day of reckoning" for Provident Hospital is near, and the "house n——s" who caused the demise are suddenly silent. Where are these so-called professionals who alleged they boycotted and brought Provident to its knees, because they needed new medical equipment?

It appears now their so-called saviour and trustee has did a number on everyone. Provident will not merge with Lutheran Hospital. Lutheran is taking over Provident.

We will be losing our identity and institution due to another behind-the-scene deal with the status-quo. Was this entire scenario a thought-out plot to rid the state of an on-going financial loss?

Looking back now, I am very distressed thinking of the hundreds of volunteer hours I provided Provident Hospital. I enjoyed helping this institution. My self-esteem was heightened seeing the large staff of black doctors and nurses dispensing medical care.

Our children had positive role models to emulate and their faces reflected hope and joy. Now, their parents will be added to the unemployment rolls when the hospital closes.

Where are the community leaders, the movers and shakers who have so much concern for Provident? It's time for your power play. I'm sure you realize now, Provident is only the beginning. Morgan State University will be next.

When will our black professionals support, embrace, and care for their own? Shame, Shame, Baltimore, we must and we can find an equitable solution.

CHARLOTTE [illegible] YLES Volunteer

JUL 1986