Baltimore Afro American

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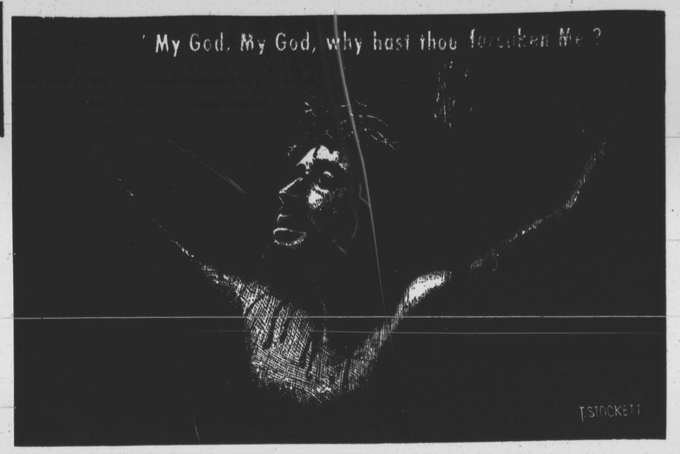


Easter season

The Easter season is always a festive time of year. Spring is coming in and the blooming of plant life signals the renewal of the cycle of that sustains life of this planet.

This is the most holy season for the Christian community. The Eastern Season marks the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ according to Christian doctrine.

The resurrection in that doctrine means humanity is rescued from the nightmare of sin and its attendant separation from God. This season is one that should represent hope and optimism.

During this season, it would behoove everyone to think about the direction of this society, the way it views war, how it treats its poor and dispossessed and what is the direction this country and this world are going in?

Is Easter just another day used to justify an obsession with purchasing consumer items and devouring sweets? Is a new outfit what children should think of first when Easter is mentioned.

The central idea of the season is redemption and renewal and during this holiday families and communities should take time to renew their relationships. This society has many problems, many of them daunting, but they can be solved.

If the notion of death is conquered by the very idea Easter, so the crises that beset this society can be vanquished by a renewed effort.

Easter is a time of hope and with that hope the problems such as deprivation, violence and wasted lives can be conquered.

Textbook shortage

One point made in a story on textbook shortages in the AFRO today is that the public schools of Baltimore City aren't the only ones suffering with this serious problem.

Other more crucial points in the article warn that textbook shortages place greater burdens on teachers and decrease the quality of classroom instruction—in other words, complicating a teaching and learning process already often hampered by large numbers of students from disadvantaged families and classes which are too big.

The article also suggests a reason why school systems such as Baltimore's go to such lengths to avoid admitting there are serious shortages of up-to-date textbooks. Admitting it erases any doubts in the minds of parents about the failure of the school system to provide their children the quality of education they deserve.

Baltimore finally has admitted it has a major problem with textbook shortages.

The bigger problem now is that neither the state superintendent's long-range plan to help Baltimore's schools nor the city system's three-year effort to provide every student a book to take home in every subject is sufficient.

Are Baltimore's officials and parents willing to have their childrn short changed two or three more years because neither the state nor the city is sufficiently concerned to come up with the less-than $15 million that school experts say could fix the textbook problem this September?

How about the new governor, who is as responsible as anyone for the current pitiful plight of Baltimore's money-starved public schools? Where does Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns stand on this question? How about our up-for-election City Council? Has Kurt Schmoke anything to say about this tragedy?

Baltimore has no future if it doesn't care enough about its public school students to provide them the textbooks they need in order to seek a quality education. Our children can't afford the additional handicap of insufficient texts.

Now that we know the seriousness of the textbook problem and what it takes to fix it, let's do it—and now;

Kweisi Mfume

Strike three you're out

Even if he had a mind to, Al Campanis could never have done as much for blacks in major league sports in the 44 years he has been with the Dodgers organization than he did in less than 11 minutes on "Niteline" a week ago Monday.

Campanis, coming across the screen as someone out of his element, was the absolute personification of the warped mindset that has kept talented black men out of the front offices and out of the decision-making roles on the field.

He said that blacks did not possess "the necessities" for management material. And he believes it. It was no slip of the lip. An incredulous Ted Koppel gave him a chance to dig himself out and asked if he realized what he had said.

It only got worse. Obviously, the Los Angeles Dodger's vice president did realize what he had said. So, there was more. He elaborated, speaking with familiarity about the concept, as though it were an obvious consensus among his fellow managers in the industry. Blacks can't swim either, he went on. They lack bouyancy.

I can just imagine the front office conversations he must have participated in where the worth of black players was discussed in the same breath as the cost of bats and balls.

For many of us who love the sport, the memories of the legendary Negro Leagues of the 1930's and 1940's immediately come to mind. In those days, baseball greats such as Josh Gibson and Satchel Paige were the first to be denied opportunity because of the out-of-time and out-of-step attitude of management.

They carved their places in history with the Baltimore Elite Giants and the Kansas City Monarchs and countless other teams who were forced to compete in a segregated arena by a society that has yet to outgrow the hypocrisy of its past.

In recent years, Joe Morgan, Frank Robinson, Hank Aaron and others have all complained that the one insidious element that has barred them from rising above the playing field was racism. Until Jackie Robinson, it had kept them off the field all together. And that is how we come to meet Mr. Campanis.

It had all begun rather innocently with Koppel asking why after 40 years since Jackie Robinson integrated major league baseball as a player for the Dodgers, are there no black managers.

What began as a benign inquiry dissolved into a candidly shared, chilling, racist viewpoint from Campanis. His explanation is one that black sports figures know exists but could never provide proof of beyond the hollow feeling in their gut. People would only deny that racism was at play. The preferred belief is that blacks use racism as a cover for incompetence.

Unfortunately, the sports world is a mere microcosm of the rest of society. Perhaps, now, thanks to Al Campanis' ignorant arrogance, the curtain that obscures racist behavior will begin to fall away. As for the Dodgers' executive: strike three, Mr. Campanis you're out!

Tony Brown's Comments

Booker T. and W.E.B.

There are those who are grounded in the W.E.B. DuBois philosophy. I always ask, "Which philosophy?" There is no better example of his philosophical ambivalence than his feud with Booker T. Washington.

Booker T. Washington is best known for his line: "Cast down your bucket where you are." It was generally agreed that he employed a deliberate ambiguity on racial matters to keep his white support.

There were, however, unarguably militant statements made by the Tuskegee Wizard, as he was called: "I have seen the statement made lately, by one who claims to know what he is talking about; that taking the whole Negro race into account, 90 percent of the Negro women are not virtuous. There never was a baser falsehood uttered concerning a race or a statement made that was less capable of being proved by actual facts."

At a celebration for the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Washington got into serious trouble with the Southern White press when he attacked racial prejudice.

He told 6,000 people in an audience in Chicago that discrimination in business and civil relations should end. Crispus Attucks, he said, shed his blood as the first American to die in the Revolutionary War so that White Americans might be free — while Black Americans remained in slavery.

He appealed to the conscience of white Americans by saying: "When you have gotten the full story of the heroic conduct of the Negro in the Spanish-American War, have heard it from the lips of northern soldiers and southern soldiers, from ex-abolitionists and ex-masters, then decide within yourselves whether a race that is thus willing to die for its country should not be given the highest opportunity to live for its country."

In 1899, Booker T. Washington was already famous. Eighteen years had passed since he had begun his life's work establishing Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Under Washington's leadership, the institute was well on the way to achieving national and international recognition.

Four years had passed since he delivered the Cotton States And International Exposition speech in Atlanta propelling him into the national limelight.

Booker T. Washington probably sat in his study in The Oaks, his Tuskegee home, and wrote his Atlanta address. In that same room, he may also have read the letter of congratulations on his Atlanta address from W.E.B. DuBois who called the speech, in a letter to the New York Age, "The basis of a real settlement between Whites and Blacks in the South."

DuBois' approval of Washington's position in 1895 demonstrates that Washington reflected a new trend in black thought after Reconstruction.

It included economic development, racial solidarity, accomodation with the white southerners, development of small businesses and industrial education.

"I beg to say that in my judgement the whole problem of the future of my race hinges largely upon the question: 'To what extent will the Negro, when given a chance, help himself, and make himself indispensible to the community in which he lives,' " said Washington, thinking out loud.

The Tuskegee Wizard recognized the value of owning land and gaining a foothold in the economic mainstream. He believed that political power would come from personal and group development. DuBois seemed to follow this philosophy in 1897 when he wrote:

"They must not expect to have things done for them — THEY MUST DO IT FOR THEMSELVES — and that a little less complaint and whinning and little more dogged work and manly striving would do us more credit and benefit than a thousand Force or Civil Rights bills," That, of course, was the DuBois of 1897.

Eight years later, DuBois would become Washington's most famous critic. By 1903, with this new emphasis on the "Talented Tenth" leading blacks to freedom, DuBois reversed his emphasis on economic development and racial unity. "Our one haven of refuge is ourselves," he had said earlier.

But now DuBois had embraced agitation, a liberal education and integration as the answers to the race problem. For the next 30 years, he would attack Washington and his philosophy and later Marcus Garvey and his Universal Negro Improvement Association's economic thrust.

Garvey, ironically, raised $10 million between 1919-1921 from blacks, DuBois' NAACP could not raise $50,000 in 1925 from a black population of 12 million.

Later on, of course, DuBois would change again. In 1934, he returned to his 1897 position on economic self-help and ethnic nationalism — Washington's agenda. For this ideological transgression, the NAACP fired DuBois.

Bloodnotes will not appear this week.

R.B. Jones is on special assignment.

Letters

Making fair housing a reality

By St. George I. B. Crosse

The fact that housing discrimination still exists is a sad reality for all Americans. Discrimination has become such a hidden practice.

In fact, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that there are two million instances of racial discrimination in housing annually.

Since Maryland is not immune to the disease of housing discrimination, I have issued a policy statement which emphasizes my personal commitment to assuring equal housing opportunity in my office's jurisdiction.

My Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division staff will continue to monitor fair housing practices by owners and managers of HUD- funded projects.

We want real estate agents, apartment complex managers and owners of federally-assisted projects to know that HUD has not become complacent in its responsibility to administer the Federal Fair Housing Law.

April is Fair Housing Month and recently published articles in local newspapers, surveys conducted by private fair housing organizations, such as Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., and the increased number of fair housing lawsuits filed in federal courts provide disturbing evidence of the problem.

These articles cite "tricks" practiced by ill-training housing industry professionals to screen out minorities and other groups protected by the law. These old tricks have got to go and my staff will pay strict attention to rental companies' policies and practices to determine if discriminatory procedures are being utilized in advertising, screening and applicant approvals.

HUD Secretary, Samuel r. Pierce, Jr., enthusiastically supports amendments to the nineteen-year-old Federal Fair Housing Law that would provide greater enforcement powers for the federal government and would protect handicapped persons from discrimination.

Secretary Pierce's proposal calls for the use of arbitration, rather than administrative law judges as proposed in the Kennedy-Specter Fair Housing Amendments Act, to enforce the fair housing statute.

Secretary Pierce wants arbitrators to be granted the authority to award relief, including occupancy of a dwelling, to issue cease and desist orders; to levy actual damages; and to impose civil fines of $50,000 to $100,000.

Although blatant discriminatory practices have declined, other forms of discrimination still exist. Some unscrupulous real estate agents encourage white families to move into better neighborhoods and discourage black families from doing the same by telling them no housing is available.

Some agents fail to offer minorities the same professional services and housing choices that are offered whites, and, of course there is the age-old practice of telling minorities over the telephone that housing is available but when they arrive at the office all units are suddenly sold or rented.

These practices must be eliminated, for fair housing is a right that all Americans should enjoy. These old tricks have got to go.

HUD and the Department of Justice are promoting an all-intensive program to combat discrimination in housing. Mark R. Disler, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil rights, says that the Justice Department has filed lawsuits in 26 states over a variety of housing discrimination matters.

The defendants have included real estate owners, managers, and agents; creditors; and apartment referral services.

At the local level, we have established 18 fair housing 18 fair housing groups, known as Community Housing Resource Boards (CHRBs), around the state to promote fair housing and work with local Boards of Realtors in developing voluntary affirmative marketing programs.

These groups have received a total of $338,000 in HUD funds to support fair housing activities.

We must and we shall sharply increase our efforts, both locally and nationally, in the administration and enforcement of the Federal Fair Housing Law. Housing discrimination is not only wrong it is illegal.

Any citizen who feel they have been discriminated against may call the toll free Fair Housing HOTLINE at 1-800-424-8590. The Baltimore HUD Office is "on the case" for these old tricks have got to go.

ST. GEORGE I. B. CROSSE

(St. George I. B. Crosse is the Manager of the Baltimore Field Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). The Baltimore HUD Office has jurisdiction throughout the State of Maryland except Prince George and Montgomery Counties)

Samuel L. Banks

Affirmative action and black Americans

Notwithstanding a plethora of civil rights laws (viz., 1957, 1960, 1964, 1965, 1968) and Federal Court decisions in support of forms of affirmative action in the workplace for blacks, Hispanics and women, equality of opportunity remains a far distant and unfulfilled promise for the overwhelming number of forty (40) million black Americans.

The fundamental and statistical reality is that white women have been the chief beneficiaries of the civil rights movement and, in general, affirmative action plans.

I do not make this point in denigration of white women because they, as is true of all citizens of our nation, are most deserving of equality of opportunity.

The point that is crucial is that white women, now that they are taken seriously by their white male counterparts in terms of job opportunities, far surpass Blacks and Hispanics in the American workplace.

The controllers and holders of power and wealth in the United States, predominantly white Protestant males, determine economic mobility and progress in the body politic.

This is an institutional process.

A study made by John Kenneth Galbraith, distinguished professor-emeritus of Harvard, in cooperation with other scholars, a decade ago showed that jobs in the Federal government paying $15,000 or more were held by 96 percent of white males.

Black Federal workers held 2 percent of the jobs and white women 2 percent. In the private sector, the situation was even more lugubrious and depressing for Black workers: white males held 98 percent of jobs paying $15,000 or more; Black workers held 1 percent of the jobs; white women 1 percent.

The latest information available in the Statistical Abstract of the United States shows that little has changed for Black Americans in the workplace. Black Americans, male and female, remain, for the most part, concentrated at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder.

A highly significant change is the expansion and mobility of white women in the workplace. Institutional decisions, legal, educational and corporate, have made this possible.

We, as Black citizens, must protest and utilize the legislative and judicial process to expand structural and substantive employment for ourselves. We must refuse to capitulate to a conspiracy of silence because of a ceremonial representation of a small cadre of our brothers and sisters in highly visible positions.

Relief must be found now for the Depression levels of unemployment and under-employment of longstanding which bedevil, eviscerate and enfeeble black citizens throughout our nation.

One of the major factors that has helped in terms of economic advancement and progress for most Americans is adherence to the concept of the PROTESTANT ETHIC.

The PROTESTANT ETHIC, enunciated by Max Weber, a German sociologist, affirms that hard work, sobriety, honesty, education, ambition, among other factorts of stability and durability, will support success and fulfillment in the American social order.

WEBER'S PRONOUNCEMENT HAS WORKED FOR WHITE AMERICANS; IT HAS NOT WORKED, TO DATE, FOR MOST BLACK AMERICANS.

In spite of this unjust and cruel reality, we as Black Americans, as our foreparents did in times past, must keep hope and dare, against mountainous odds to push forward.

The acquisition of education, knowledge of our extraordinary history and utilization of our multifaceted skills and talents represent the linchpin necessary for obtaining educational, political and economic justice and opportunity.

A capitulation to despair and hopelessness is a prescription for systemic and structural failure and dependency.

The Supreme Court's recent decision germane to affirmative actions and past civil rights legislation provide safety a valve and judicial and legal beachheads that we must expand for our collective benefit as a people.

In this process, we must not permit ourselves to be encumbered and denied by institutional forces which points the view that we are not qualified or prepared to have the full range of educational and socio-economic and political opportunities in the American body politic.

In other words, we must be PROGRESSIVE and not DEFENSIVE in our historic quest for economic justice and equal and fair treatment throughout the United States.

We possess the ability and power, if we persevere and refuse a subordinate and unequal status in our nation, to achieve, in the near future, a substantial broadening of affirmative action and equality of opportunity for the neglected and dispossessed.

It is imperative that we act singly and in partnership with the NAACP, Urban League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, PUSH, legislators, church and civic groups to end the shame of a bifurcated or dichotomous America: BLACK AND WHITE; SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL.

The time for action is now at hand and a lessening of extravagant and vacuous rhetoric. We must NOW summon the will and power, in the remarkable, steadying and rich history and tradition of our forebears, to take the LEAP OF FAITH for socio-economic wholeness and equality of opportunity.

Sterling A. Brown, highly acclaimed professor-emeritus of Afro-American Literature and English at Howard University, offers a contemporary beacon in his poignant and instructive poem, "Strong Men:"

"They dragged you from homeland,
They chained you in coffles,
They huddled you spoon-fashion
in filthy hatches,
They sold you to give a few gentlemen
ease.
They broke you in like oxen,
They scourged you,
They branded you,
They made your women breeders,
They swelled your numbers with
bastards . . .
They taught you the religion they
disowned.
You sang:
Kepp a-inching along
Lak a pop inch worm . . .
You sang:
I'm gonna lay down dis heavy load . . .
The strong men Keep-a-comin' on
The strong men git stronger."

We need, in the graphic, visceral and impelling language of Sterling Brown "TO WALK TOGETHER" for demonstrable affirmative action, demonstrable educational excellence and socio-economic empowerment.

It is we who must do this for ourselves and posterity.

Max Robinson

Political Viewpoint

The closing initial session of Maryland's new General Assembly in Annapolis and a current wave of crime activities here should prompt increased attention to this city's fast approaching municipal elections beginning early September.

Increased attention should be directed not only to the two current mayoral candidates, but just as importantly if not more so to the vastly needed election of community-conscious city council district representatives.

Gov. William Donald Schaefer, working his first stint with the new Assembly, has demonstrated quite clearly Baltimore is to a degree still his city.

However, he has denied this in a current AFRO interview.

Yet, he pressed strongly and successfully for his pet project, the Camden Yards stadiums compound, though possible opposing legalities still remain.

He gave approval to a women's detention center for West Baltimore, another project facing stiff community opposition.

He has maneuvered sizeable funds for the city's public educational system, though short of what he wanted.

He has moved the city's first black police commissioner, Bishop Robinson, whom he appointed a few years ago away to top post of Secretary of the State's Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Interim Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns, of course, replaced Robinson with Edward J. Tilghman, who had been the second highest ranking black officer in that department.

But, Schaefer has steered clear of this city's major problem — crime, especially on the streets.

Quite rightly, he has left that fully up to Burns.

Burns may have been looking in the direction of this festering situation, but has said little about it publicly.

Nor has he directed any noticeable corrective buffer measures.

Aside from infrequent major drugs raids, police have been mainly in the role of action after the fact.

Point here is this outgoing city council, many of whom may be hoping for reelection, seems to have adopted a what-can-you-do attitude.

Actually, there are some law-abiding, organizational citizens known here who haven't seen their district council representatives since they were last campaigning for office.

In short, there are some such members who just don't relate to the constituents of their district, in accord to area problems.

The increasing flood of cheap handguns along with almost open trafficking in drugs in some districts should certainly merit Council attention and whatever possible cooperation with police.

Yet, they didn't bother to respond to invited attendance at an Annapolis senate committee hearing a few weeks ago on a bill which would have outlawed sale and import of those "Saturday Night Specials."

The bill, of course, lost in committee by a one vote margin.

State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke, who also wants to be this city's first black elected mayor, has yet to address forceably this growing menace to citizens on the streets and even in their homes in too many areas.

He did, though, send a spokesman to the hearing on the guns bill. Burns had no spokesman there.

Attention here though that it's the job of city council members to represent fully and adequately the constituents of their respective districts, citizenry welfare and area conditions.

They are amply paid and staffed to do so.

Actually, the residents of their district are in a sense their neighbors.

Council representatives are closer, or should be, to their citizenry than the mayor.

All of which points to this new municipal campaign now underway toward the September primary.

Major attention maybe focused on the mayoral candidates, and what they say and do.

But almost as equally important, however, is sharp scrutiny of the Council candidates — especially the new ones and those not so new in office not generally seen in their respective districts since the last campaign.

Long tenure in office doesn't necessarily reflect efficiency, or marked capabilities.

There stands too often the specter of too much citizenry voter disinterest, especially in taking for granted.

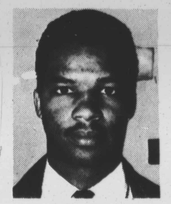
Whole point here is that city council representatives along with the mayor are duty-bound to cooperate with law enforcement officials in combatting crime with all possible means.

Campaign rhetoric excluded.

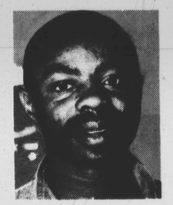
AFRO SURVEY

Dr. James Webb

Dr. Bernetta Davis



John Moore



Calvin Childs

This week the question to the man and woman in the street is, "Has Easter lost its true meaning?"

Dr. James Webb, 40, optician, "Like anything is, it's commercialized. People are buying food and clothes. I hope I can find a place in church."

Dr. Bernetta Davis, 37, optician, "No, most people know what's involved with Easter. Whether they apply it to everyday life is another question. I believe there is less commercialization than ten years ago. The economic climate has made people rediscover the meaning."

John Moore, 21, clerk, "Yes. I think the poeple don't take it very serious as far as religion is concerned. I think it has turned into a material thing. When people go to church these days it is to show off their clothes."

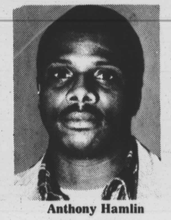
Calvin Child, 29, security guard, "Yes. It's a lot of commercialism. People have forgotten its meaning. People have gone to buying clothes. Materialism is running rampant. It is just like Christmas. People who least need to be caught up in it are the ones who are the most involved it in."

Anthony Hamlin, 26, produce worker, "I think a lot of people don't understand Easter. A lot of people see Easter as just another day. Some people celebrate the day, but not the meaning."

Lawrence Lawson, 45, Elder, "I think a lot of people are taking it out of context. Instead of relating to it as our risen saviour, they relate to it concerning things . . eggs, bunnies and bonnets. The real meaning is in reference to our Lord and Saviour."

Fern Pruitt, 25, law student, "Not really... I guess it's the time people are supposed to spend with family which is what I do every year. I believe the spiritualism is in spending Easter with your family."

Mary Green, 37, laborer, "Yes. People are celebrating materialistic things, not the resurrection of Christ."



Anthony Hamlin

Lawrence Lawson

Fern Pruitt

Mary Green

Anthony Armstrong

Winning and losing

Editor's Note: Anthony Armstrong works for Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns.

Someone will win and someone will lose in the 1987 mayoral race. The best of all worlds would see the people of Baltimore winning, by electing the one candidate best able to achieve, first, the possible, second, the doable, and third, the probable — given, that is, that the objects of these three things are what Baltimore needs.

We have housing problems. We have education problems. We have jobs problems. We have problems relating to economic development. We have health concerns that, like the rest of the nation, threaten to change many of our social and sexual norms.

This city's black community has all the above problems, and some of our pressing issues are unique to our experience. Thus, a mayor who will be mayor of all the people must have a keen awareness of those of our citizens who are among the most oppressed. One does not have to be oppressed to be empathetic to those who are; however, no one would argue that coming through deprivation is not sufficient trading for such empathy.

Alas, however, one can be as concerned as is humanly possible, and still not be able to effect much improvement in the lives of those who so badly need help.

The first thing in this regard is to get elected. Being elected, however, does not insure that the winner will be able to help at all, simply because that person may not have the desire to help, and because that person may not, in spite of their desire, know how to help.

Just like it is impossible to build the Empire State Building by financing it through the sale of fish dinners cooked at home and sold from the front porch, it is impossible to help people if one knows only the "paper" workings of the city of Baltimore.

Although they exist, a city agency has never helped anyone. The people in those agencies are the ones who provide the help; and like it or not, if those people aren't prepared to work with and for you they can stop anything of value from ever getting done.

Our race for mayor pits promise against performance like no mayor's race has in a very long time. On one hand we have the promise of fine credentials.

Seasoned properly, over time, those credentials could grow into the substance of mayoral merit. No one, however, with his feet on the ground would be objectively prepared to say that the promise before us now has been seasoned properly to perform as this city's mayor must, in the next four years; to address the problems facing Baltimore.

This is not his fault; it is, simply, the fault of time. I have no problems with a young man taking advantage of opportunity; but, if his taking advantage of a personal opportunity renders Baltimore without experienced, knowledgeable, empathetic, and effective leadership then all of Baltimore has to stand up and say, "no."

"No, we cannot allow this city, and especially at this time, to become the training ground for someone who might one day be capable of being a good mayor." The stakes in terms of peoples' wellbeing are too high for that.

If you don't win, you lose. That's life, the same as it is in the courtroom, on the basketball court, or in a political race. Remembering that it is the people who should be the winners; a victory for an unprepared politician, though joyful to him, could well be a massive defeat for the people of this city.

All that glitters aside, if the young and promising would-be mayor did not wear the coat of credentials earned in distant schools, what would he don himself with? My purpose is not to paint a negative picture at all, yet all of the voters need to scrutinize anyone who would seek to lead them.

Politics is decidedly a thinking man's game. Perhaps one reason why we have not always done well in the political arena is because we tend to bring our hearts to the game far more than we bring our heads. Yet, if one knows the game one is never lost. It is impossible to know all of what is going on at any given time, but a little common sense can go a long way in discerning political machinations.

Ask yourself certain common sense questions. Start with questions like when, when did that candidate show-up; where, where did he come from; who, who is behind him (especially where is his money coming from); why, why now especially given that we already have the black mayor so many of us have said we wanted.

In addition, ask yourself whether you are being given performance or promises. If promises, remember that a politician will tell you anything you want to hear, in exchange for your vote. If performance, ask to see and to know "what have you done Mr. Candidate who wants my vote?"

Lawyers know that if you can't beat your opponent with the facts, you beat him with the law. In sports it is said those who can't play, coach. In life in general those who don't do, talk; and those who don't talk, do.

So it is in politics. Those without any real record give the public what is called a "beauty contest." Those who can put a record before the voters do not need such "beauty contest" gimmicks.

Again, someone will win, someone will lose. If you are the public it's up to you to make sure you are the winner. Someone's personal goals and objectives ought be just that — their personal goals and objectives. However, what is puddin' for one is poison for another.

This 1987 mayor's race will boil down to a contest between a record of performance and a promise. It will come down to a question of which candidate can most skillfully play his strategy. Ultimately, however, it doesn't matter what either candidate does.

What matters is what you, the voter, does with what each candidate does. Remember also, some make great candidates and terrible elected officials; others just the opposite. Yes, someone will win and someone will lose; make sure you, the voters, win.