

It seems as if we are not free to exercise differing opinions and entertain alternative political affiliations in pursuit of the same goals.

Recently, the mayor of Savannah (a black Democrat) was quoted in your newspaper as having said, "Colin Powell is the most dangerous African-American in the nation."

One hopes this was an error on the part of the reporter. If not, it is yet another reminder of how vicious the anti-diversity attitude is among some of us.

Would the names of icons like Frederick Douglass, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Zora Neale Hurston or even Sir Charles Barkley need to be stricken from the hearts and minds of admiring African-Americans because they are (gasp!) Republicans?

If so, then former NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks would have to be stricken from the record of his organization, because he too is a Republican.

One can only wonder how far the anti-diversity klan will go in its unholy war against those of use who choose not to ride the donkey in the future. What is so criminal about now following liberal policies whose good intentions have been outstripped by an unsocial program plantation that nutates motivation into increasingly depressing, even dangerous, directions?

The inner city has been the testing ground for schemes whose damage to health human potential rivals even the programs of the Austrian paperhanger and Karl Marx's stepchildren.

Essentially, paying poor women to have more fatherless children and providing endless excuses for community criminals whose lethal adventures in the "hood amass body counts that would be unacceptable in other communities are far from being acceptable measures of one's "blackness."

Still, the anti-diversity klan feels that those who do not embrace these hideous initiatives are somehow threats to the well-being of all African-Americans.

Their treatment of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is their monument to intolerance. His being a virtual exile among the leadership class of our community is nothing short of tragic.

We are only four years away from a new century and millennium and this type of "thinking" serves as an anchor on our aspirations. Black Republicans, independents and every other kind of political creature are facts of life that these controllers will have to accept.

We have to have a "big tent" approach in our community if we are to achieve the objectives we claim are so important. Otherwise, the finger pointing and the shouting will be drowned out by the increasing volumes of triggers being pulled and hands that should be literate hopelessly scribbling on sheets of paper that threaten to become arrest reports if this trend is not ended.

Is being blindly loyal to any political party really worth losing everything that we found so hard to attain?

IN HONOR OF THE RIVER VALE-
SPONSORED AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL TEAM: INTER-
NATIONAL AMBASSADORS OF
OUR NATIONAL PASTIME

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of young men

who have distinguished themselves through their exceptional achievements on the baseball diamond. Through their outstanding exhibition of athletic performance and sportsmanship, these individuals serve as reminders of what can be accomplished when people work together for a mutual goal.

Baseball has long been the national pastime. Although the sport has provided enjoyment to those who had played it intramurally, the earliest organized game took place in what is now my district on June 19, 1846 on the Elysian Fields in Hoboken. From the first pitch, it was obvious that this new sport would have a tremendously positive effect on all future participants. This can be seen in the young men who took part in the International Baseball Tournament in Breda, Holland.

The multi-national celebration of baseball took place from August 18 to 26. The River Vale American Legion team was the only American team to participate in the tournament. Other countries which competed in the week-long activity included Russia, Italy, France, Germany and Holland, the host country. While in Holland, the players lived with native families, toured various cities and attended a number of social functions.

The group of 12 young men who successfully represented the United States included: Steven Batista, Michael Della Donna, Seth Jason Testa, Craig De Vincenzo, Luke Frezza, Mathew Kent, Michael Wren, Scott Clark, Michael Russini, Russell Romano, Thomas Lamanowicz, and Thomas King. Each athlete earned the respect of his peers. Joseph Pistone and Thomas De Vincenzo coached them to their undefeated, 10-0, tournament-winning record.

I am certain that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the outstanding efforts of the River Vale American Legion baseball team. The cause of mutual cooperation and understanding among people in the United States and Europe was greatly enhanced by their participation. These young men will long be remembered as international ambassadors of our national pastime.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR MRS. MARIA
THOMSON OF WOODHAVEN, NY,
BY PLACING HER NAME IN THE
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an unselfish and dedicated citizen of Woodhaven, NY, Mrs. Maria Thomson. As a president of the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, and a member of the Community Board No. 9, Mrs. Thomson's volunteer efforts have been commendable. In addition to her prior achievements, Mrs. Thomson is the chairperson of the 102d Precinct Community Council, a founding member of the Woodhaven Residents' Security Patrol, and a graduate of the Civilian Academy of the New York City Police Department.

For nearly 20 years, Mrs. Thomson has labored tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the Woodhaven residents. As the executive director of the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation and the Woodhaven Busi-

ness Improvement District, Maria has encouraged and implemented the revitalization of our Jamaica Avenue shopping strip. As a result of her efforts, she has attracted quality businesses and improved security and lighting along the commercial strip.

As a testament to her dedication to the community, when Engine Company No. 294 closed due to New York City budget cuts, Maria Thomson worked as first cochairman of the committee to save Engine Company No. 294. Eventually, this fire engine company was reopened to restore safe living conditions for area residents.

Those in the Woodhaven community have come to recognize Maria Thomson's name as a household word because of her sincere interest and dedication to community betterment. She is known to always be ready to lend an ear and a hand to anyone who asks for her assistance. It is for all these reasons which I take great pride in recognizing Mrs. Maria Thomson as true community hero. I urge my colleagues to recognize her and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNION-
TOWN, PA, AS IT MARKS ITS
200TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to congratulate the residents of the historic city of Uniontown, PA, located in my district, as they celebrate their bicentennial on October 5, 1996.

Two hundred years ago, in 1796, this beautiful town, nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, was officially incorporated as a borough. From its earliest days, it held a major spot in the country's history.

From its beginnings, Uniontown was considered an important market spot, drawing buyers and sellers alike from southwestern Pennsylvania and neighboring Maryland and West Virginia. This economic activity helped Uniontown become a popular resting stop along the Nation's first national highway which ran through the center of town. As such, Uniontown played a crucial role in encouraging the growth and movement of our Nation westward.

Uniontown also holds the distinction of being one of the centers of the Whiskey Rebellion, the Farmers Tax Revolt of 1791-94, which was a major test of the new U.S. Constitution. It is also the birthplace of such notables as Chief Justice of the Washington Territory, Charles Boyle; Industrialist J.V. Thompson; former U.S. Senator Dr. Daniel Sturgeon; Mason-Dixon Surveyor Alexander McClean; Revolutionary War Gen. Ephraim Douglas; and last, but not least, Five-star Gen. George C. Marshall.

During the late 1880's, Uniontown's fortunes brightened when it became a hub of the coal and coke boom. Site of some of the most immense deposits of the finest bituminous soft coal in the world, companies in and around Uniontown dug the coal from the ground and reduced it to coke for steelmaking in thousands of beehive ovens. The city quickly became the operational and financial center of

the coal industry and the mercantile and cultural center for mining towns in the surrounding area.

Perhaps the town's most important attribute, however, is its hundreds of civic-minded citizens who share a vision to preserve and revitalize this very historic place. In recent years, the community has pulled together to promote tourism and economic development. I am confident all these efforts will prove to be successful and in the coming years, Uniontown will remain a very bright and unique jewel in the heritage of our Nation.

Again, I congratulate all the citizens of Uniontown and know they will have a wonderful day to celebrate their beginnings and renew their community spirit.

THE 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION AT ST. AGNES HOME FOR BOYS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the St. Agnes Home for Boys in Sparkill, NY, was an outstanding home for orphaned boys for over 100 years. It closed its doors forever back in 1977, but the many boys who were raised by the loving Dominican Sisters of Sparkill will never forget their kindnesses and the outstanding lessons of life that they learned there.

In its over 100 years of existence, thousands of orphaned and needy boys were reared at St. Agnes home. The home taught these youngsters the importance of patriotism, which is underscored by the fact that over 555 graduates of St. Agnes served in the Armed Forces of our Nation during World War II alone. It is hard to believe that any school so small anywhere else in the Nation could possibly have produced so many soldiers. Sadly, 39 of them were killed in action during that conflict—a record of valor which is probably unequaled.

One graduate of St. Agnes, Gerald F. Merna, is today the vice president of the American Defense Preparedness Association, headquartered in Arlington, VA. Another is his brother James, a resident of Lanham, MD, who now serves as chairman of public relations for the St. Agnes Alumni Association. Jerry, James, and their four brothers all were raised at St. Agnes. Their eldest brother, George, was killed at the age of 19 in a sea battle during World War II.

On August 24 of this year, the St. Agnes Alumni Association conducted its 50th anniversary reunion. Seventy-five alumni of St. Agnes from all across the Nation came to Rockland County, in my congressional district, to pay tribute to the sisters, and the sports coaches, who molded them into outstanding citizens, and to reminisce about their incredible experiences at St. Agnes.

The Speaker of the House generated a great deal of controversy last year regarding his comments on orphanages. Here is an example of an orphanage which filled a community need and became a beacon for thousands of youngsters.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the newspaper article dated August 25 which appeared in the Rock-

land Journal News recounting the recent reunion:

[From the Rockland Journal News, Aug. 25, 1996]

ST. AGNES ALUMNI CELEBRATE MEMORIES

(By Richard Gooden)

Sparkill.—Art Kingsley provided humor, emotion and nostalgia yesterday during the 50th anniversary celebration of St. Agnes Alumni Association's founding. He held the attention of 75 feisty people, in 85-degree heat, on the grounds of the Dominican Convent.

That was the easy part.

In order to prepare for the day's events, the 73-year-old World War II veteran and former resident of the St. Agnes Orphanage used a chain saw to remove two plaques from a wall of the Hallan Building. He bought a third plaque. He then dug a shallow 10-by-5 bed on the lawn, filled it with gray stone and embedded the plaques in a cream marble.

"This is a beautiful work of art," said James Merna, a resident of St. Agnes from 1946 to 1950 and now head of public relations for the alumni association. "Art Kingsley made this all happen today."

The corner plaques were dedicated to St. Agnes physical education teacher James Faulk and the nuns who worked at the home. The convent closed the orphanage in 1977.

The plaque in the middle honored the 39 soldiers that attended St. Agnes, who died in World War II and the Korean War.

Merna, a stocky round-faced man, eager to help all in attendance, reminisced on the transformation from childhood to manhood at St. Agnes.

"We went from the ballfields of St. Agnes to the battlefield of World War II and the Korean War," said the Marine veteran who graduated from Tappan Zee High School. Merna challenges any orphanage to equal or eclipse the 555 St. Agnes residents who went on to become soldiers.

Merna credits Faulk, who died in 1985, with shaping the orphans into productive citizens. In honor of his role model, Merna named his first child James Faulk.

Pete Lawton, a resident at St. Agnes from 1940 to 1948, also shared his recollections of the football coach while posing for a picture beside the plaques.

"This man was an inspiration to us kids," said Lawton, a Congers resident who was at the orphanage from age 6 through 13. "He is the major reason why most of the St. Agnes kids lived decent lives."

WELCOME TO AMBASSADOR JASON HU

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, greetings and best wishes to the Republic of China's Washington representative, Ambassador Jason Hu. He comes to Washington from his last post as the Republic of China's Director-General of the Government Information Office. With his wide government experiences and a solid background in politics and commerce, Ambassador Hu will forge ever stronger links between his country and ours. I heartily bid him welcome and look forward to working with him and his colleagues.

As I welcome Ambassador Hu to Washington, I hope the Republic of China will be able to return to the United Nations and other inter-

national organizations as soon as possible. As an economic power and a symbol of democracy, Taiwan deserves the world's respect and recognition. Since 1949, the Republic of China on Taiwan has moved from an agricultural society, exporting only bananas and sugar, to a major trading nation today. Moreover, the 21 million people on Taiwan are prosperous and free.

Last but not least, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chien. I wish them good luck as they prepare to celebrate their National Day on October 10, 1996.

GOLD ISN'T A WACKO IDEA

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, an old friend, Owen Frisby brought to my attention an August 19, 1996 article featured in The Detroit News, pertaining to the gold standard.

I have contended for years that in order to revitalize our Nation's economy, we must remove from Government the temptation and the ability to produce chronic budget deficits. Restoration of a dependable monetary standard based on a commodity with fixed value would, by making monetization impossible, accomplish this. It is for this reason that I have introduced legislation in previous Congresses reestablishing the Gold Standard.

The author of the article emphasizes that the Gold Standard has been tested, and proven over the centuries as the best mechanism to protect against destructive inflation and deflation. I commend to the attention of my colleagues, "Gold Isn't a Wacko Idea."

[The Detroit News, August 19, 1996]

GOLD ISN'T A WACKO IDEA

Even before Jack Kemp had been named as Robert Dole's running partner, the Clinton White House was on the attack. In addition to bashing his tax-cutting ideas, aides to the president cited Mr. Kemp's affinity for a return to the gold standard as further proof that he's an economic wacko. Should he choose to pursue the issue, however, we have little doubt that's an argument Messrs. Dole and Kemp would win.

The gold standard has pretty good history, after all. Alexander Hamilton placed America on a gold standard as part of his effort to refinance the young country's debt following the Revolution. The link with gold was broken temporarily during the Civil War and in the early 1930s, but it was soon reestablished in both cases. And for good reason: The gold standard proved a durable and politically potent means of ensuring the value of the dollar.

After the remaining links to gold established under the postwar Bretton Woods agreement were finally broken by Richard Nixon in the early 1970s, inflation soared. The market price of gold itself vaulted from \$35 an ounce to \$850 an ounce. It's still selling for more than \$380 an ounce—more than 10 times its price only 25 years ago.

If you wonder why the American middle class is still feeling "anxious" about its living standards, you need look little further than at the massive expropriation of wealth and income that this represents. Little wonder it is so tough to wean people from such "middle-class entitlements" as Medicare, Social Security benefits, day-care and college tuition subsidies.