

# Campaign should focus on Marshall Plan for America

The presidential candidates need to convince the voters that they have a blueprint for change — a road map to make America more productive and more prosperous.

The Urban League's Marshall Plan for America fits the bill, and it's not too late for either candidate to latch on to that landmark proposal to put America back on track.

The time is ripe, for a

Those investments can jump-start local economies and create jobs. They would have a positive impact on our beleaguered cities crying for investments that generate jobs and opportunities.

Earlier, this year, the U.S. Conference of Mayors did a survey of public works projects that America's cities are ready to go with — projects to build schools and housing, repair roads and parks, improve bridges and water

new jobs. Atlanta's projects would require \$246 million in 1992. They would create over 4,000 new jobs. And the multiplier effect of new spending would create some 12,000 net new jobs.

Boston has projects on the boards costing \$98 million. They would create 3,000 new jobs, or about 9,000 total.

Chicago, even before the flood, needed \$141 million in 1992, for unfunded public projects that would directly create almost 7,000 new jobs. And the ripple effect and you get roughly 21,000 new jobs in a high unemployed city.

If those projects were tied to a national Marshall Plan for America run by a Cabinet-level Director accountable for targeting them to those most in need — with skills training built into the projects — it would have a tremendous impact on the black economy.

Unemployed men and women would be back on jobs, earning money to feed their families. Minority contractors would be hiring new workers to build sewer lines and repair bridges.

The new money pumped into the community would find its way to dry cleaners, grocers, beauticians, and clothing stores, creating new jobs and new business opportunities for black entrepreneurs.

So voters ought to be asking candidates for all officers what they will do to make the Marshall Plan for America a reality. It should be the key issue in the closing weeks of this campaign.

## TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB



confused citizenry is looking for answers to America's deep problems, not another round of finger-pointing, empty rhetoric, or phony issues.

And it wants a plan that can put America back to work. Economic insecurity is the number one issue in this election. Too many people are out of work, and too many are afraid of layoffs to come.

The Marshall Plan for America is a long-term program to put the nation on a high-growth trajectory, but it can also serve as a short-term engine to pull us out of the recession.

It's a plan for investing in our human resources — the education and training that will give America the world's best workforce.

And it's a plan to invest in the physical infrastructure — the bridges, roads and high tech communications links necessary to support a growing modern economy.

systems.

Nationwide, over 500 cities reported they need \$13 billion that they don't have to get those projects moving right away. If they got the money, those projects would directly create 420,000 jobs.

That's not all. Jobs would be created in industries supplying goods and services. They newly hired workers would spend their earnings on food, transportation, and other necessities.

So those 420,000 directly created jobs would ripple through the economy to create as many as one and a half million jobs.

Look at how some major cities around the nation would be impacted if those ready-to-go projects got a green light.

In Los Angeles — the city's capital spending plan calls for \$186 million for 1992 that it doesn't have. Those capital projects would generate 9,300 jobs directly, and a total of over 25,000

# An "Amen" for our children

Black children and families today are facing the worst crisis since slavery. Did you know that each day,

dynamic ministers, the Rev. Allegra S. Hoots and Dr. Susan Newman, have joined CDF as Religious Coordina-

ers of the need to contribute to your community's child-serving and child-advocating agencies. Challenge your church to join those churches offering such exciting ministries as after-school tutorial programs, mentor programs, adopt-a-teen programs, rites of passage ministries, parental support groups, college preparation workshops, and spiritual dynamics for today's youth.

Our children's lives and futures depend on the actions we take today and tomorrow. Government and community agencies have a role to play, but they cannot love a child. All people in all communities — public and private, sacred and secular — must begin to work together to ensure that we leave no child behind.

Every child deserves a healthy state, a head start, and a Fair start. Every child deserved continued prayers. For our children to become strong citizens, parents, and leaders, we must clothe their nakedness, feed their hunger, educate their minds, heal their bodies, and nurture their spirits.

Please, won't you join us October 16-18, or whenever you can, in our very special Observance of Children's Sabbaths? To find out how you can participate and receive the Sabbath kit, call (202) 662-3508 or 622-3509 with your name, address, phone number, and the name of your church.

Add your voice to the chorus and help us send a strong message to the nation that the suffering of our children must end. Can I get a Witness? Can I get an Amen?

## CHILD WATCH

By MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

among black children in America, 942 infants are born into poverty, 34 infants die, 1,334 teenagers become sexually active for the first time, 827 teenage women become pregnant, 4 children die by firearms, 5 young adults ages 20 to 24 die by firearms, 1 child commits suicide, 125 children are arrested for violent crimes, 3,374 students are suspended from public schools, and 478 students drop out of school.

Please, won't you join us in trying to do something about it?

I invite you to join in the 1992 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths, which will be celebrated in churches and synagogues throughout the nation, October 16-18, 1992.

I devoted an earlier column to the Children's Sabbath, but now that the date is real, I want to reemphasize the importance of your involvement.

This event is born out of the growing religious movement for children across the range of denominations.

Throughout the weekend, congregations across the nation will focus worship services, religious education programs, and related activities on the needs of children and how people of faith can help to meet those needs.

Your congregation may already be involved. Two

tors in the Black community. This summer, they attended most of the all-black denominational annual conventions, organizing support nationally, and targeting Children's Sabbath services in Baltimore, Boston, Cambridge, Dallas, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C.

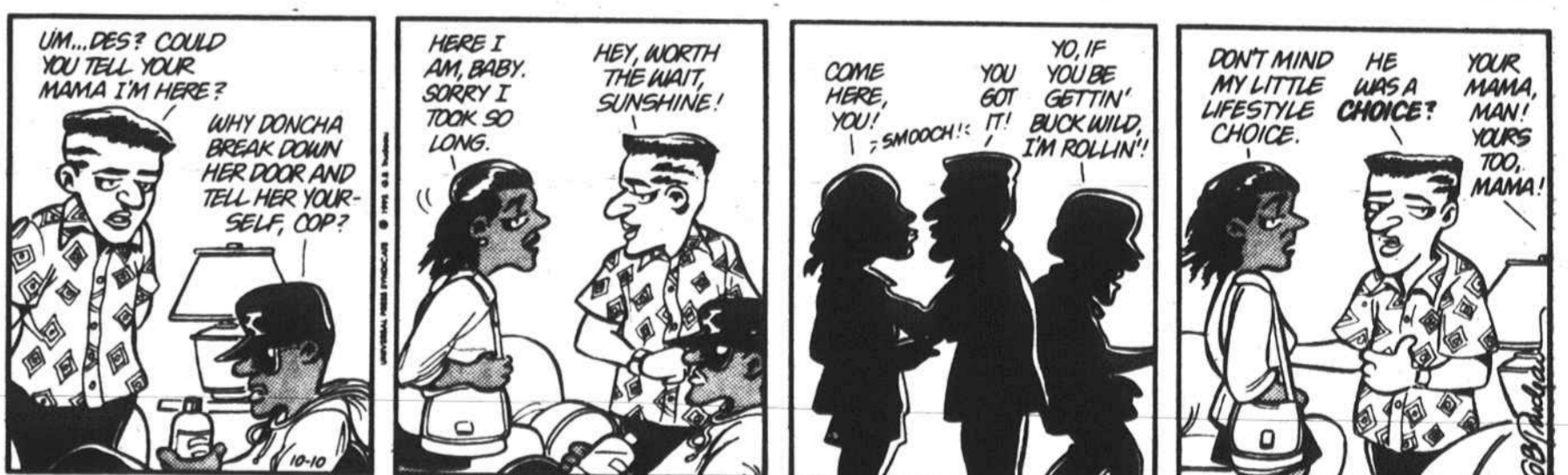
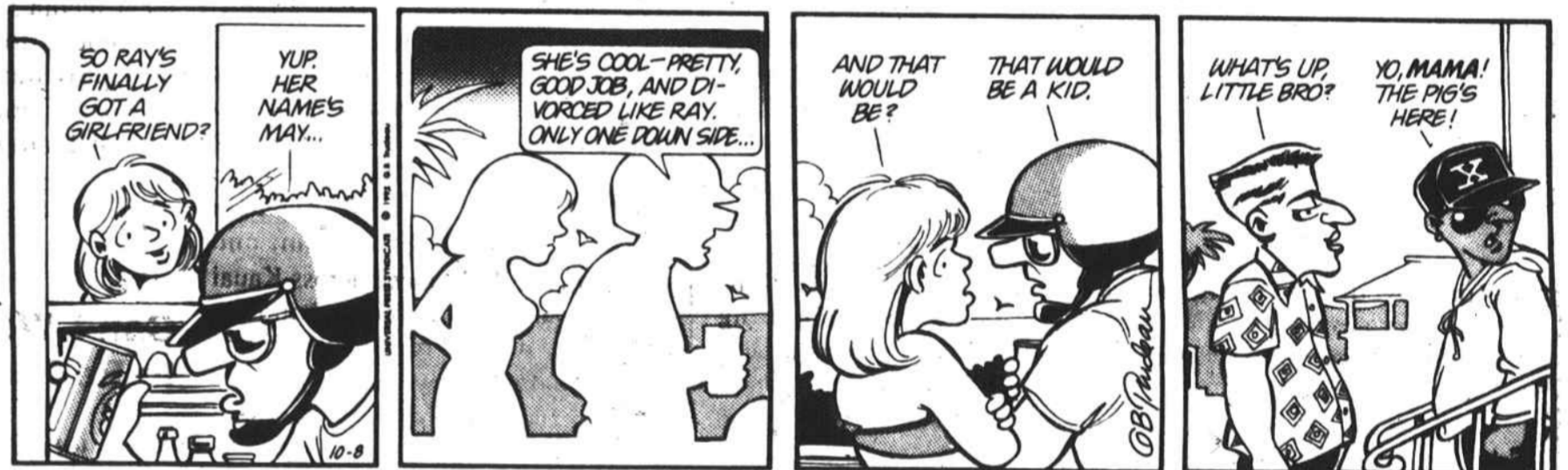
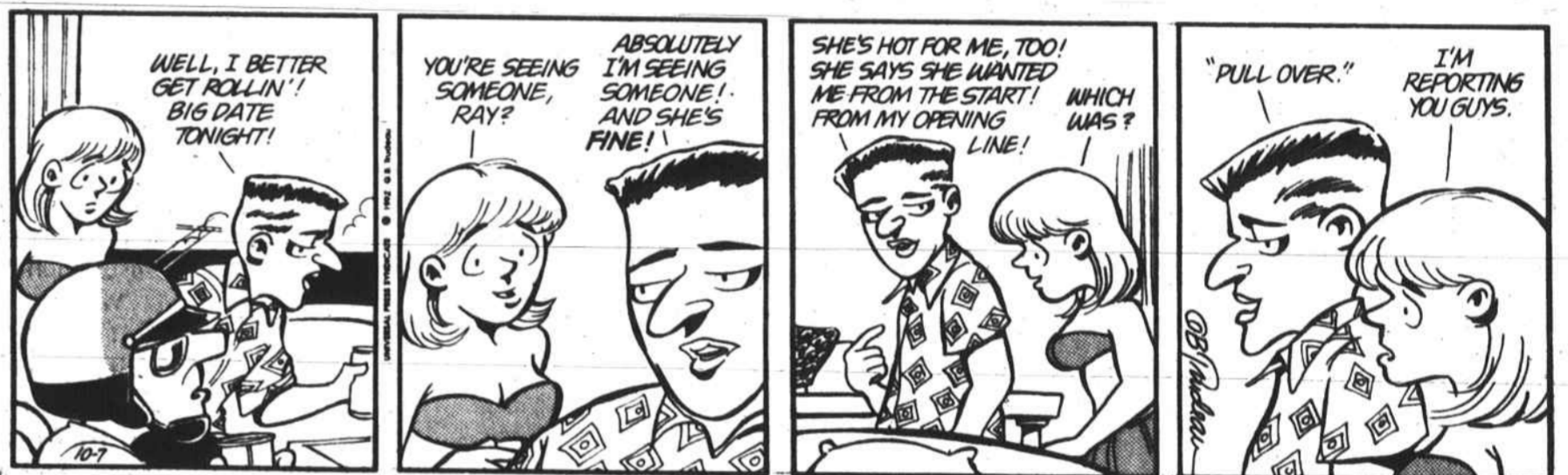
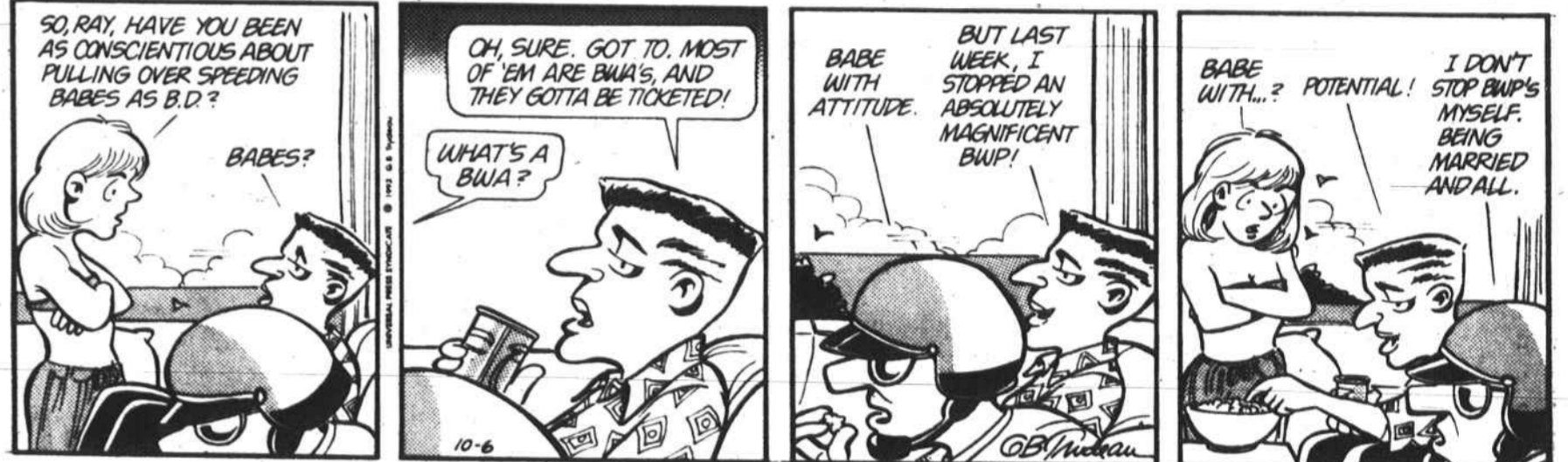
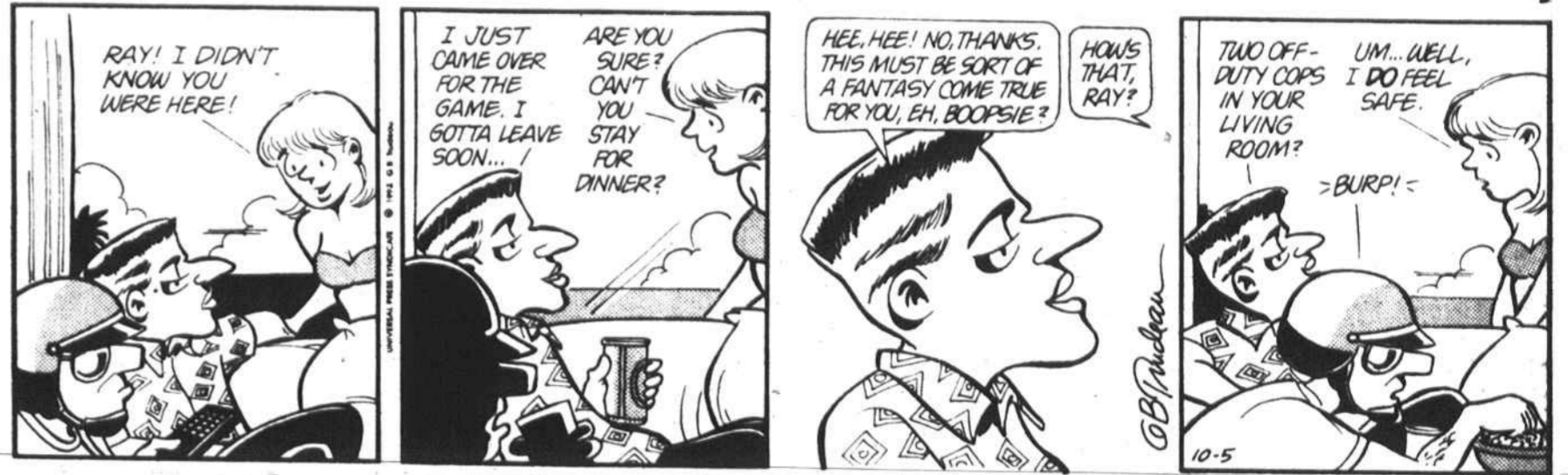
Our seven-day devotional guide for observing the Children's Sabbath has been sent to thousands of black churches, and to the more than 1,000 African-American congregations within predominantly white denominations. The kits can be easily duplicated and inserted into each church's bulletin.

We've sent general devotional guides to thousands of Catholic and Protestant churches and Jewish synagogues. We're asking congregations and religious communities throughout America to include our children in their prayers. And I am very thankful to those who have agreed to join us in this special observance.

Encourage your minister to observe a Children's Sabbath. If not October 16-17, then some other time. Ask your congregation to make a commitment to helping our children overcome the death, drugs, crime, and poverty that is devastating our communities. Remind your lead-

# Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU



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