Pratt offers reading list on Vietnam

From the Enoch Pratt Free Library comes a new, up-to-the-minute reading list on Vietnam.

Titled "Vietnam: Land in Turmoil," the list offers a balanced selection of 32 of the best books and magazine articles on the subject published during the years from 1963 through 1969.

Compiled by subject specialists from the Library's Social Science and History Department, the titles are divided into three sections headed, respectively, "The Land and the People," "Twenty-Five Years of Violence," and "What Should We Do Now"

The selection is intended as a guide for the general reader rather than a comprehensive bibliography for the scholar or political expert.

Free copies of the new list are available to Baltimore residents through any agency of the Pratt Library.

Interested nonresidents are asked to send 5 cents per copy to the Publications Assistant, Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St.

Sheldon outlines school decentralization plan

Superintendent Thomas D. Sheldon delivered an additional report on Administrative Decentralization of the Baltimore Public Schools at the recent Board of School Commissioners meeting.

Administrative Decentralization is a posposal to reorganize the broad administration of Baltimore's 209 public schools.

Reorganization would create administrative entities "small enough to be educationally effective and conducive to productive human relationships."

Yet, in developing the program, plans are underway to make the program large enough to ensure "continued educational innovation, broad social benefits and economic efficiency."

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The proposal for decentralization, being entirely administrative in nature, has no relationship to the subject of neighborhood school boards or pupil enrollment policies.

The proposal would create ten administrative districts for each of ten "sets of schools" of the city, each administrative district encompassing a group of regular grade Kindergarten (or pre-K) through 12 schools located in general proximity to each other.

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Each of these districts would serve approximately 18,000 pupils who will continue to enroll in schools under the School Board enrollment policy, not necessarily according to the geographical districts in which they live.

It would also create two administrative areas, one for all Vocational Education schools and the other for all Special Education schools throughout the city.

Each of the ten administrative districts would be administered by a district superintendent, and each administrative area would be headed by an area superintendent.

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Each district superintendent would be responsible for the educational needs of all regular grade pre-K through 12 pupils attending schools in that district, regardless of where the student resides.

The district superintendent would exercise the authority of and be responsible to the Commissioners and Superintendent with regard to the proper functioning of his district.

The district superintendent would direct educational activities within the district and have access to central office services essential to his developing a budget, allocating personnel, ordering and distributing books, materials, and supplies, developing curriculum, evaluating teachers and administrators, maintaining close community relationships and good public information services, etc.

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All actions taken would be within regulations and guidelines established by the Board of School Commissioners, the City Charter, and State educational laws and would be effected through delegation of authority by the Superintendent, through assistant superintendents.

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Furthermore Dr. Sheldon stated that the Administration's Decentralization proposal now before the Board of school Commissioners is not presented as a final study that is either to receive Board approval or rejection, but rather is the result of many months of study and examination that should now undergo the critical analysis of our teachers and administrators and their representatives, various interested associations and groups, the School Board itself, and the citizens and their representatives.

A public hearing will be held on decentralization in the near future.

Economy meals for good eating

Consider canned pears for dessert, salad and garnish use when planning the family menu for weeks ahead.

You'll find them economical and often featured among the "specials" because supplies are now plentiful.

Pears used for canning are generally the attractive, smooth textured Bartletts, grown largely in the rich volcanic soil of Pacific Coast orchards. This soil helps produce pears of superior quality — fine flavored and uniform in shape and color.

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You'll find canned pears excellent for serving as is for a refreshing cool dessert or in a main dish cottage cheese or seafood salad, or heated and gently spiced for a garnish for meat or poultry dishes.

Minted canned pears, for example, go well with roast lamb. To prepare, just drain the liquid, add green food coloring to the juice and bring the liquid to a boil in a sauce pan. Remove from heat and add mint extract or mint jelly and blend well.

Glazed pears make good team mates for pork chops. To prepare, melt butter in fry pan, add well-drained pears, sprinkle with brown sugar and cook slowly until pears are well glazed.

They're delicious in baked desserts — pies, pastries or shortcakes, in molded salads, and in a fruit sauce topping for ice cream dishes, crepe suzettes or blintzes. Use them also in fruit compotes to either start off or end a meal.

Slice the pears lengthwise, add sliced bananas, orange and grapefruit segments, or any other fresh or canned fruit. Chill and serve.

Here's a menu for a day's good eating using foods that are plentiful and reasonably priced:

Breakfast
Citrus fruit cup
French toast with syrup or marmalade
Milk
Coffee or tea

Lunch
Lentil soup
Hamburger on a bun
Fresh apple
Milk

Dinner
Irish stew
Tossed salad
Pearadise Shortcake
Milk
Coffee or Tea

Here's a recipe for Pearadise Shortcake, the dessert for the dinner meal:

Use one package Chocolate Cake Mix, 4 to 6 canned Bartlett pears, diced, and Whipped cream.

Bake coke in square or rectangular pan, according to package instructions. Cool. When ready to serve, cut cake into squares. Split pieces and fashion into individual shortcakes using diced pears for filling and whipped cream for topping.

Household Hints

A wide, ever-changing palette of colors is available for home decorating. The selections made should revolve around colors that suit the family's living and the furnishings already in the home. For example, bold, clear colors may make things look dingy, or they may add just the right touch. No color by itself is good or bad, pretty or ugly. It's the way the colors are combined that gives them value.

Flammable materials such as dead brush and trash should be cleared away from house and garage.

Research shows that only tall women can reach kitchen cabinet shelves above 72 inches from the floor. Most women must climb a step stool or up onto the base cabinets to reach these areas.

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Don't sit too long in one position. When the body is held in a fixed position, muscles are constantly contracting without letup. Unless the muscles are given a break or stretch, they tend to shorten and go into spasm.

Even repeated reminders can't seem to keep some people from careless habits while smoking cigarettes and other tobacco products. A cigarette or cigar butt must be dead out — to play it safe.

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