The pros, and cons of the McDonalds—Mondawmin battle

Pro: Adams stresses economic gains

Two days after the City Council gave its approval to the location of a McDonald's restaurant in Mondawmin Mall, the man who so tirelessly sought its siting reflected on the benefits that would accrue to the community.

William L. Adams, the businessman, explains it all in terms of economics.

Speaking with the AFRO Wednesday afternoon Mr. Adams declared, "Where can you get a nice meal for about a dollar within one mile radius? The benefits that will go to the community are that it's economical and it's a place where the family can go in and sit down. You see, this is not a carry-out restaurant as some would have the public see it," he said.

Moreover, Adams said, "I have always been concerned with the economics of the community. if you can't have good economics, you can't have a stable community."

Most outstanding, he said, will be the $250,000 per year in jobs that the restaurant will provide to the young people of the area who will work there.

"Now I know that these 50 jobs wouldn't solve all the problems. But you have thousands of children in this area who need jobs. And every job is important. Every job counts. This is a step in the right direction," he added.

Not only providing jobs, the restaurant will help the Metro Plaza to survive, Adam believes.

The controversial eat-in is shaping out to seat 120 persons and will be open 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. "We will discourage anyone from sitting in their cars and eating food," Adams said.

He continued, With the restaurant open the hours that it will be, some of these same people who are criticizing it now will be the same ones coming over to get a late night sandwich."

He said, other young black men will be able to acquire franchises and the restaurant is not his business as he says his opposition continues to insist to the news media.

Not only will there be no trash outside of the restaurant, but according to Adams, the McDonald's people have a tradition of hiring youngsters to clean up the area within a two block radius.

Answering critics who claim the location would a "rape of the community," he responded, "If we had thought that placing a McDonald's there would be a detriment to the Metro Plaza or to the community, we would never have thought about placing it there."

Adams also offered: "The opposition to the building of the McDonald's has contended they have presented enough signatures on their petition against the restaurant to prohibit its construction.

"After careful study of the list of signatures, we must take exception to the results presented to the City Council. When comparing the addresses in their petition to the book of 'Real Estate Tax Assessments for Baltimore, 1975' published by the Mayor and City Council and the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors and deleting nonexistent addresses, subtracting duplicate signatures and reducing the signature to a one per household basis, the resulting figures are significantly lower.

"The petition in its complete form shows 543 people surveyed. However, upon editing for accuracy, this number is reduced to 319 homeowners, churches, private businesses, corporations and the mayor and city council. This means that approximately 14.5 per cent of the 2200 homeowners eligible to respond expressed opposition to the restaurant."

Con: Weaver cites community decline

"Most of us have worked and paid city taxes on this property all of our lives. If they commercialize this area any more, we will be forced to move to the county for a decent place to live. When you're near retirement age, you cannot afford to take out another $50,000 mortgage in the suburbs."

This is how Warren Weaver, a leading member of the Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council, sums up the reaction of some rest dents to the approval of plans by the City Council to locate a McDonald's restaurant outside the Mondawmin Mall.

For months now, he has cited the following reasons why the location would be a detriment to the community:

1. To commercialize any portion of the Mondawmin parking lot would be a dangerous precedent... which would threaten the future of the residential community.

2. There are now seven fast-food restaurants in Mondawmin Shopping Center (Metro Plaza) and one more within one-half block of the complex.

3. The proposed site in the bill that passed City Council is located near a large population of students from School No. 60, Lemmel Junior High and Frederick Douglass High School.

"There is a large walk-around population of young students from the community and Mondawmin complex who do not attend school at this time. For years, it has been almost impossible to prevent the students from hanging out in the Mondawmin Mall where there is a completely closed-in complex, Weaver said.

4. The intersections of Reisterstown Rd., Monroe St., Pulaski St. and Gwynns Falls Parkway, between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m., 1,800 vehicles pass this spot. Reisterstown Rd. northbound and Liberty Heights westbound on a 24-hour kheck reveals 14,321 cars passed this spot

"According to McDonald"s representative, the kind of facility they are proposing will be highly dependent on mobile customers. They further stated their sales per customers at $1:35," Weaver said.

"They expect to average $1,600 customers per day. Without being a traffic expert one can easily anticipate the terrific impact additional vehicular traffic will make on the streets in this already over-burdened community," he continued.

"Unrestricted commercialization in a residentially oriented community will have a negative effect on neighborhood residences," Weaver said.

"At present this community has about 70 per cent owner-occupied residences.

"The Mondawmin Co-ordinating Council, Inc. is an umbrella organization made up of neighborhood, protective and block club associations.

"We have an extensive program developed to maintain the character of our community and to work for youth development projects for our young people," said Weaver.

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Spokesmen in the Mayor's office said Wednesday afternoon, Schaefer has made no decision on the bill and has five calendar meetings after the City Council to either veto the bill or approve it.

Since the bill came out of the council's Judiciary Committee, resident reaction became voluminous with cards, letters and telegrams to members.

'Overcoat' Watson's trial postponed

Simeon "Overcoat" Watson, who is charged with stabbing a 35-year-old woman on April 30 while in the Lorman House at 1654 N. Fulton Ave., appeared in Western District Court Wednesday for trial.

The trial was postponed until June 24 because the victim, Mrs. Barbara Jackson, 35, of the 1800 block Lorman St., had not received a summons to appear in court.

Watson, 59, who is confined to City Jail, is also accused of walking into the Lafayette bowling Alley on May 15 and allegedly shooting Bernard H. Pinder in the head.

Ms. Jackson told police she was in the Lorman House when she became involved in an argument with "Overcoat."

Police state Watson asked Ms. Jackson to leave the club with him and she refused. When Mr. Jackson started dancing with another man, Watson allegedly walked up behind her, stabbed her in the back with a knife and ran out of the club.

Police report Watson was arrested the same day from Lewis Playhouse Tavern, 1722 Presstman St., after a witness pointed him out to the police.

A trial date has not been set for the murder Watson has been charged with. Watson, of the 2300 block Edmondson Ave. allegedly approached 33-year-old Stanley Braxton and attempted to shoot him twice in the Lafayette Bowling Alley but his gun misfired.

Police reports state when Watson pulled the trigger the third time Braxton tried to grab the gun and Bernard H. Pinder was accidentally shot in the head.

AFRO carrier of the week

HARFORD COUNTY CARRIER—Aaron Stewart of Van Cherie Court, Havre de Grace, Md., is the AFRO carrier of the week. With his sister Adrienne and brother Napoleon, he sells 218 papers per week in the Aberdeen and Havre de Grace areas. Aaron is a sixth grade student at Havre de Grace Middle School and he enjoys sports and dancing. Aaron is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Stewart.

Box or menthol:

Carlton is lowest.

Look at the latest U.S. Government figures for other top brands that call themselves "low" in tar.

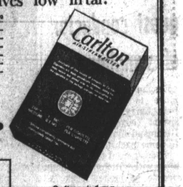
	tar mg/cig	nicotine mg/cig
Brand D	13	0.9
Brand D Menthol	11	0.8
Brand V Menthol	10	0.7
Brand V	10	0.7
Brand M Menthol	8	0.5
Brand M	8	0.5
Carlton Soft Pack	1	*0.1
Carlton Menthol	less than 1	*0.1
Carlton Box	less than 1	*0.1

*As per cigarette by FTC method

Less than 1 mg. tar.

Of all brands, lowest. Carlton 70: less than 0.5 mg. tar, .05 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report DEC. '76.

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.



Soft pack-1 mg. Menthol-less than 1 mg. Box*-less than 1 mg.

Soft Pack and Menthol. 1 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report DEC. '76.
Box: 1 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

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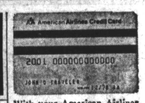
All tours are for 7 days/6 nights. Rates vary according to accommodations and are per person double occupancy unless otherwise noted (at some hotels there's a surcharge). Air fare not included.



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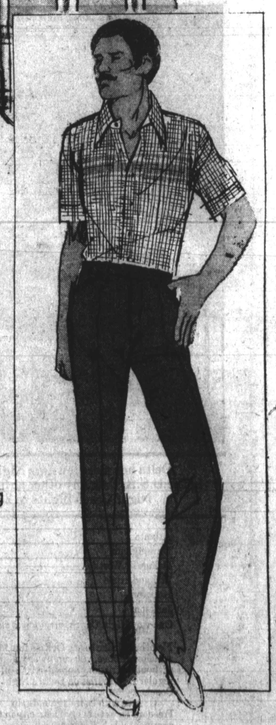

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