Church, friends will help but...

City agencies, politician can't lift fingers to aid elderly couple

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Ifs, ands, buts, maybes, and-if-cans.

These seem to be the only responses city agencies and one elected official can offer to find a solution to Lawrence and Louise Lawson's $6,000 "improved" problem kitchen.

As reported in the AFRO March 6, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, both in their 70's, of the 2700 block of Columbus Drive, contacted with Glove Improvement Co. in March 1978 for a $4,200 remodeled kitchen, including new linoleum, 17 feet of cabinets, a new sink and countertop and a smoke detector.

A 19.5 percent finance charge raised the total amount to $6,448.80, payable over 60 months at 107.48 per month.

In June 1978, Mr. Lawson was in an accident in which he lost both legs. Mrs. Lawson called Baltimore Security Co. the financing agency for Glove, and told them she was unable to meet the monthly payment. A lien was filed in court against their property.

Since that time, Ms. Vivian Lawson, their daughter, has been making the payments and trying to receive help from city agencies. Ms. Lawson feels her parents were taken advantage of because they did not understand the terms of the contract.

The only people who have offered a assistant are the pastor of the Lawsons' church and a member of Mrs. Lawson's Eastern Star chapter.

Rev. Harold Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church where the Lawsons have been longtime members, said his church will help financially, and a letter of disapproval will be mailed to Globe.

"We hope to be able to give a substantial amount to the Lawsons," he said.

A member of Mrs. Lawson's Eastern Star chapter visited the family after the story appeared in the AFRO. She recommended that if the chapter has an attorney his or her advice be made available to the Lawsons.

But church and friends will help the Lawsons, an elected official and various "watchdog" agencies are either reluctant or unable to offer aid.

Fifth District Councilwoman Rochelle "Ritki" Spector, who expressed more concern about how Globe will get paid then the Lawsons' plight said she "can't do anything" until after the work is inspected by the Home Improvement Commission.

The Consumer Credit Commission cannot legally get involved because the lien was filed in court.

"Once a confessed judgement (against a resident's property) goes to court, only a court case charging fraud can clear it up," said Kenneth Lips of the Commission.

It would have been possible for the Commission to investigate the contract before the lien was filed because, according to Lips, the finance charge listed on the contract was too high.

The finance charge on the contract is $2,348.80. Lips said the correct charge, would have been $2,150.

But Lips said laws governing home improvements are vague. Two laws, the Installment Sales Act and the Retail Credit Council Law, cover both grounds supplied and services performed.

"It is hard to tell which law governs a transaction, The services Globe provide fall into either, neither or both categories. It is all nebulous," he said.

Grassroots consumer advocacy groups and telephone referral services offer little help.

The telephone for Consumer Aid in Annapolis had been disconnected and information does not have a listing. Contact Baltimore could not suggest any groups or agencies that either the AFRO or Ms. Lawson have not already contacted.

Meanwhile, Globe is seeking customers in the Kenwood area of East Baltimore, according to the president of the Concerned Citizens of East Baltimore.

Mrs. Zatella Giles said circulars advertising Globe were placed in residents' doors. She said she called Globe and was told representatives from the company will be in the neighborhood to talk to residents.

Mrs. Giles said her organization has warned neighborhood folks against Globe. An announcement was made in her church and signs have been posted telling residents to avoid the improvement company.

Footnote: If Mr. and Mrs. Lawson had remodeled their kitchen themselves, the total cost would have been approximately $1,170.

The kitchen cabinets, sink and countertop would have cost $975 if the materials had been purchased at Montgomery Ward.

A First Alert smoke detector sells for $18.95.

No wax floor covering for a ten by nine kitchen sells for $100. Installation is another $75.

The Lawsons owe more than $6,000 for a day and a half's work.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

HOPEFUL — Lawrence and Louise Lawson still owe more than $5,000 on a home improvement bill for their kitchen. So - called "watchdog" agencies say they cannot help. The members and pastor of the Lawsons' church and family friends have offered aid.

U.S. Government Report:
Box or menthol:
14 Carlton have less tar than 1 Vantage.
Carlton Box... less than 0.5 mg. "tar" and 0.05 mg. nicotine.
Carlton Menthol... less than 0.5 mg. "tar" and 0.05 mg. nicotine.
Vantage... "tar" 11 mg. nicotine, 0.8 mg.
(3 of all brands lowest Carlton Box... less than 0.5 mg. "tar" and 0.05 mg. nicotine.
Carlton is lowest.
Less than 1 mg. tar.
Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.
Box: Less than 0.5 mg. "Tar," 0.05 mg. nicotine; Soft Pack and Menthol: 1 mg. "tar," 0.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report May '78.

GET IT TOGETHER WITH A SALAD COMBO AT GINO'S.
Gino's
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TOP RECRUITER — Signalman First Class PAUL P. Covington of Baltimore was recently named the Navy's Recruiter of the Year for 1978. Covington is stationed at the Navy Recruiting Station in Jersey City, N.J. and "believes in his work and the Navy."

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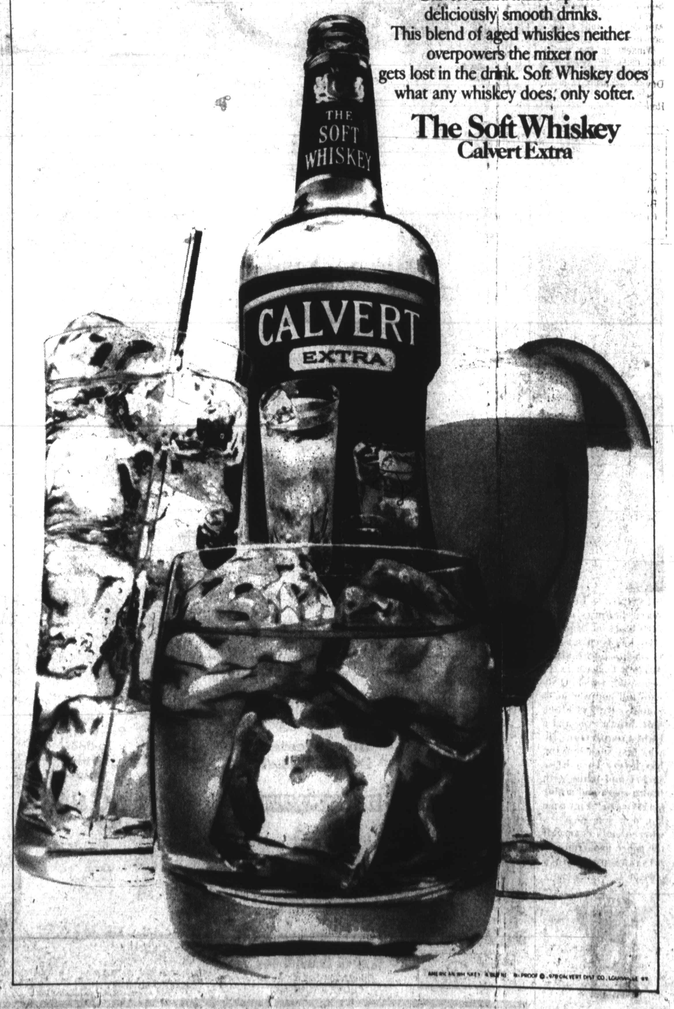

9 students win 'Baltimore's Best' writing contest

Nine city students were honored for their winning efforts in the "Baltimore's Best" Creative Writing Contest for school children.

During a special luncheon in the students' honor at Walbrook Senior High School Tuesday, March 13, Mayor William Donald Schaefer presented each student with a trophy while proud parents and teachers looked on.

"It's really rewarding to see that so many students participated in the contest to express their appreciation of the many positive things our city has to offer," Schaefer said.

The "Baltimore is best" program, directed and coordinated by Mrs. Elvraine Applefeld, a full - time volunteer on the mayor's staff, sponsors the program as an annual event.

The Department of Education's Office of English, coordinated by Dr. Charles L. Allen and the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. John L. Crew Sr., represented by Mrs. Ruth J. Pratt, The Administrative Assistant Officer for Community Relations, work in cooperation with the "Baltimore is Best" program to organize the event.

City - wide winners were selected through a three - stage profess, culminating in the final judging by representatives of the Office of English and the Office of the Superintendent.

Contest winners are selected on the basis of three each from elementary schools, middle or junior high schools, and senior high schools.

Winners in the elementary school class:

First place — Ma Randolph Jones, Fifth grade, School No. 202;

Second place — Webster C. Louis, fifth grade, School No. 242, and

Third place — Nina McQueen, fifth grade, School No. 122.

Winners in the junior high class:

First place — Stacey Duvall, School No. 46;

Second place — Sharon Roberts, School No. 80, and;

Third place — Sharon Mertz, School No. 77.

Winners in the senior high school class:

First place — Terry Johnson, School No. 407;

Second Place — Terri Stallings, School No. 402, and;

[illegible] — Lisa [illegible] 20.

Here are some excerpts from the young writers' pieces:

Ma'Vin Randolph Jones:

"From north to south; from east to west, our city of Baltimore by far is best!

Baltimore is a city for all seasons;

And that's only one of the reasons.

Baltimore has the greatest city fair.

There are monuments and landmarks almost everywhere. . . ."

Webster C. Lewis:

". . . Baltimore has city fairs that can't be beat and antique chairs on Howard Street.

In Baltimore you can go on hikes and ride bikes.

Ba... She has steps of marble stones and good ice cream cones.

Baltimore is Best!"

Nina McQueen:

"Baltimore is best because it's a city that cares for its people old and young. Many poor boys and girls can say they had a fun summer by going to camp because someone cared. . . .

. . . You can go to the North, South, East, or West, but come to Baltimore if you want the best."

Stacey Duvall:

". . . Baltimore's best for our famous downtown where our City Hall and Little Italy can be found.

Baltimore's best for our man — power; We built monuments and a round shot tower.

Baltimore's - best, I promise you: I wouldn't have written this poem if it weren't true."

Sharon Roberts:

". . . . Our City has its Civic Center with much to entertain; it boasts the Colts and Orioles which I'm proud to name.

It has its many religions that worship in their own way and accepts the many cultures displayed from day to day.

It hails its coming subway to benefit us all.

It's proud of its Lexington Market and beautiful shopping malls."

SHARON MERTZ:

"When put to the test, Baltimore's Best; its boundaries hold many sights to see.

The Civic Center, Fort McHenry and Constellation are only three.

There's the Flag House, Shot Tower, Lexington Market, and so much more.

Come along for a sightseeing tour . . . ."

Terry Johnson:

". . . Is the reason our fifth Lord Baltimore?

Or the bird of the orange and black?

Is it due to distinguished Johns Hopkins?

Is it the site of a famous attack?

Finally he consulted a citizen

Beneath the great City Hall dome.

"Why is Baltimore Best?" he questioned him.

"Because," he replied, "it's my home."

Terri Stallings:

". . . . It's the people, the thoughts

The feeling they share

It's the Inner Harbor where they have the best City Fair.

It's the world famous Johns Hopkins and U.M.B.C.

And it's Coppin and Morgan and C.O.B. . . ."

Lisa DeVan:

"As I look down upon this City to see what there's to see,

I see the many strange and wonderful things that were always meant to be.

I see the Inner Harbor with its lights all shining bright,

It always looks so pretty in the lonely mist of night. . ."

WRITING WIZARDS — Nina McQueen of Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School was one of nine Baltimore City school students congratulated by ex - Baltimore Colt Lenny Moore (R) at Walbrook Senior High School Tuesday for winning "Baltimore's Best" Creative Writing Contest. Waiting their turn are winners (L to R) Terry Johnson, Western High School; Sharon Mertz, Herring Run Junior High; Sharon Roberts (partially hidden), Southwest Middle School; Webster C. Lewis, Northwood Elementary School and Marvin Randolph Jones, Lafayette Elementary School.

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NOTICE

Due to the recent looting, Dr. Stanley Madison announces the closing of his East Baltimore Office after April 15, 1979. For further information call 327-0515 after 6 p.m.

Veterans' reemployment rights cover National Guard members and reservists who request leaves of absence for military training, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Man and women who leave their jobs for military services have reemployment rights under federal law, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

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American National Rate Review
"Money Market" Certificates...
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1-2½ yrs. at a rate of 6.50% 6.72% per annum yield
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4-6 yrs. at a rate of 7.50% 7.79% per annum yield
6-8 yrs. at a rate of 7.75% 8.06% per annum yield
8-10 yrs. at a rate of 8.00% 8.33% per annum yield
Passbook Accounts pay 5.25% with a per annum yield of 5.39%
Federal regulations require a substantial penalty on withdrawals prior to maturity on certificates. Daily compounding on all accounts including Passbook.
State and Federal Regulations prohibit compounding of dividends on money market account.
AN
American National Building & Loan Association
Fallsway Shopping Ctr. — 704-6841
Lexington & Liberty Sts. — 752-0400
Wide Lake Village Ctr. Columbia — 997-6200
Reisterstown Mall — 761-4545
Towson Plaza — 825-5330
Carrollton Sykesville — 795-2200
Chatham Mall — 461-1500
Westview Mall — 747-7414
Perry Hall Shopping Center — 256-6700
Shop & Save Offices:
Hochschild's Security Square Mall — 298-6220

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Leave Baltimore	Arrive Atlanta
7:35a	9:16a Nonstop
9:35a	11:16a Nonstop
1:15p	2:55p Nonstop
5:40p	7:20p Nonstop
9:35p Night Coach	11:10p Nonstop
3:35a Night Coach	5:05a Nonstop

One-way Fares: Day Tourist and Night First Class $76. Night Tourist $61

To New Orleans
Fly nonstop any morning or evening. Also 2 low-fare Night Coaches.

Leave Baltimore	Arrive New Orleans
7:35a	10:35a
10:32a	11:59a Nonstop
1:15p	4:25p
5:35p	7:02p Nonstop
9:35p Night Coach	12:37a
3:35a Night Coach	6:29a

Except for the nonstops, service is via connection.
One-way Fares: Day Tourist and Night First Class $111. Night Tourist $89.

To Houston
Just one stop, straight thru morning or evening. Plus 4 other flight times.

Leave Baltimore	Arrive Houston
7:35a	11:06a
10:32a	1:19p One-stop Thru
1:15p	4:54p
5:35p	8:30p One-stop Thru
9:35p Night Coach	1:25a
3:35a Night Coach	7:54a (Ex Sat.)

Except for thru-jets, service is via connection.
One-way Fares: Day Tourist and Night First Class $130. Night Tourist $104.
All fares subject to change without notice.

Delta is ready when you are