Shades of McDonald's at Mondawmin?

Northwest residents fight proposed drive-in restaurant

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Members of the Greater Northwest Baltimore Community Coalition do not want a drive - in restaurant in the 3800 block of Liberty Heights Ave.

They are afraid a bureaucratic fast shuffle will allow an Arthur Treacher's outlet to locate in their neighborhood.

The Coalition, led by Ned Graham, has been waging a correspondence battle since October, 1978 in opposition to the proposed fish and chips restaurant.

Graham said a representative from the carry - out franchise called him in July, 1978 to discuss the possibility of a drive - in.

M. Albert Figinski, attorney for Arthur Treacher's, attended the Coalition's November meeting and presented the plans, complete with a slide presentation.

The proposed site would necessitate a zoning change from a B-2 (business) district to a B-3 as defined by the Zoning Administration.

According to Figinski's letter to Graham, Treacher's could only locate in the 3800 block of Liberty Heights if, one, the city enacts an ordinance to change the zoning to B-3 and, two, if a separate ordinance is passed to allow the restaurant.

Figinski's letter further states that, once the zoning is changed, if Treacher's leaves the site, the use of the property will revert to uses which comply with B-2 regulations.

"That doesn't mean a damn thing. If they get it zoned B-3, no matter what, it will stay B-3," Graham said.

Graham also said Treacher's representatives mistakenly believe the Coalition has no animosity toward the drive - in, only toward the zoning change.

In a letter to Mayor Schaefer, Graham said, "The Northwest Community Coalition, representing nine civic organizations, churches, schools and other concerned citizens, is strongly opposed to any type of drive - in restaurant in the 3800 block of Liberty Heights Ave., and to any zoning change in that block." (original emphasis.)

The necessary zoning change would have to be introduced in City Council for committee discussion.

Two 5th District City Council members, Tom Waxter and Rochelle "Ricki" Spector, wrote to Graham and said they are supportive of the community and are not willing to introduce legislation which would allow Treacher's to locate on Liberty Heights.

But Graham and other Coalition members are not reassured that the matter is settled.

M. J. Brodie, commissioner of Housing and Community Development, wrote a letter to Mayor Schaefer which states, as did the letter from Treacher's attorney, that community residents oppose only the zoning change, not the drive - in.

Brodie goes on to say that if rezoning is to be approved before the City Council's summer recess, a bill should be drafted and submitted.

"We understand that the City Council members from the 5th District have been reluctant to introduce a rezoning bill . . . your office may want to pursue preparation and introduction of the bill," the letter concluded.

Graham thinks a rezoning ordinance may be introduced on behalf of the administration.

In an attempt to forestall the introduction of such legislation, Graham has enlisted support from community residents.

Geraldine Coleman, principal of Garrison Junior High School, speaking on behalf of her students and their parents, said she opposed any zoning changes which would increase commercialization in the area.

"Since our students travel through the area, we fear an increase in traffic congestion brought on the appeal of a fast food restaurant to students as well as persons traveling through the area," the letter said.

Edmonia T. Yates, principal of Forest Park High School, told the Coalition that "many parents of Forest Park High are concerned about the possible rezoning of the 3800 block of Liberty Heights Ave. Therefore we wish to go on record as opposing any zoning change in that block."

Some people contacted by Graham have praised existing Arthur Treacher's restaurants in other areas of the city.

Lee Bowman, acting executive director of the Park Heights Community Corporation, urged the Coalition to consider the "positive contribution that a facility such as this can make toward stabilizing the economic base of the black community."

He also said the fish and chips drive - in located at 5400 block of Park Heights Ave. has not experienced any loitering or sanitation problems. He lauded the manager of the store for hiring employees from the community.

Another favorable reaction to the Park Heights drive - in came from Samuel Billups Jr., principal at Pimlico Junior High School. Billips said the business has a positive effect on the area because it "has transferred a barren area into a successful business" and because it hires approximately 25 youths on either full or part - time basis.

Graham's angry reaction to Billups' letter brought this as a response.

"I did not intend to make any recommendations, suggestions or similar inferences with reference to the new location . . . As a junior high school principal, I can assure you that I have neough problems to resolve without seeking others.

"Since the enrollment zone of our school does extend into the Liberty Heights Avenue area, I solicit your support and cooperation in meeting the needs of youth and in making our community a better place in which to live and work," Billups' second letter read.

The Coalition has not received any further information since the Feb. 27 letter from Brodie to Schaefer suggesting the mayor introduce the rezoning legislation.

But Graham said the community group is pessimistic that the matter has been dropped. They will continue to fight any attempts to change the zoning on Liberty Heights and - or the construction of any drive - in restaurant.

Graham said the only type of business the group would allow in the 3800 block of Liberty Heights would be B-2 establishments such as shoe stores, cleaners or another drugstore.

"We need community businesses which would serve the people in this neighborhood," he said.

Graham offered another alternative to a drive - in restaurant: a Mayor's station to provide recreational facilities and services to area residents.

"We don't have one here and Park Heights has two," he said.

Another Coalition project is a proposal for a grant to establish a senior center in St. Marks United Methodist Church on the corner of Garrison and Liberty Heights.

U.S. Government Report:
Box or menthol:
17 Carlton have less tar than 1 Kent.
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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.

36,000 kids ran away from city in last 5 years

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
(Part I of a 4-Part Series)

Over the past five years, more than 36,000 persons have vanished from the Baltimore area without leaving a trace.

The Missing Persons division of the Baltimore Police Dept. says that after many days, weeks and months of searching for these persons, investigators have drawn only blanks in trying to solve the disappearances.

The greatest tragedy of it all is that nearly 400 children have disappeared since 1979 arrived. In just three months, missing are 100 black female, 90 black male; 100 white female and 50 white male children.

Before this story is printed in the AFRO Friday, March 30, there will be at least 30 more youngsters gone from home, some of them never to be seen again.

What is the story behind this shocking mystery? Why do children leave home? Are they enticed away or do they go on about their own business to answer some secret call?

What happens to those who are never seen again? How can people hide away inspite of the fact that hundreds, thousands of human beings see them every day?

Last, is great tragedy always the end? Does death always await the run-away child?

Most of the above questions have answers. Some of them do not.

KIDS OF ALL RACES

I seeking, the answers, the AFRO talked with retired Juvenile Court Judge U. Theodore Hayes who for nearly nine years sat behind the bench at the Court House downtown and heard an average of 150 or more cases involving delinquent children a week.

He states that most of the cases involved an interracial group of children who had been returned home (although some of them took off again) and who revealed why they had left in the first place.

Judge Hayes' story is startling as he reveals what the children said under oath.

WHY RUN AWAY?

The first "Why" Judge Hayes discussed involves the weather. As soon as the first hint of spring comes in March youngsters get a yearning to wander away from the nest.

"Maybe it's Nature calling and city children like the country children when I was a kid get the urge to "go fishing" or just get close to the earth by wandering in the woods," the veteran jurist states.

Now, he explains, if just an urge to "go fishing" were all, the situation would not be so tragic.

But, that isn't usually the case, just an innocent little trip to smell the green earth and say goodbye to winter.

Hayes states, "Based on the great number of kids from 12 to 16 years of age coming through my court they keep on going and they have the ingenuity to get to the most distant places — Florida, California and the islands off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

"They know how to hitchhike, get food along the way and a place to sleep each night. They keep on going and going and some never get back home.

"The ones who are finally caught up with state they have had more than just hitchhiking adventures.

SEX TRAP

"The girls get into sexual experiences with truck drivers and other men and pay with their bodies for food and lodging. That's only the beginning.

"Some of them at such a tender age as 12 years go from prostitution to selling dope, living as the wife of an older man.

Regardless of race, this is usually the experience of a run-away girl, prostitution, illicit living and involvement with narcotics."

TROUBLE AT HOME

Judge Hayes also says the girls (both white and black) who are from families of all income levels, describe frankly the living conditions at home which may have led to their leaving when the weather made travel easy.

One white, 13 year old female who appeared before Hayes after returning to her parents, had this strange tale to tell: (Upon investigation, the jurist found her story was true.)

The attractive girl who seemed to be much older and matured said she had observed a murder committed by her father in her neighborhood. Since she was a witness, she was closely watched and kept away from other people lest she would tell.

NEXT WEEK — Judge Hayes goes further into this case and the "Why" and other circumstances involving other run-away children.

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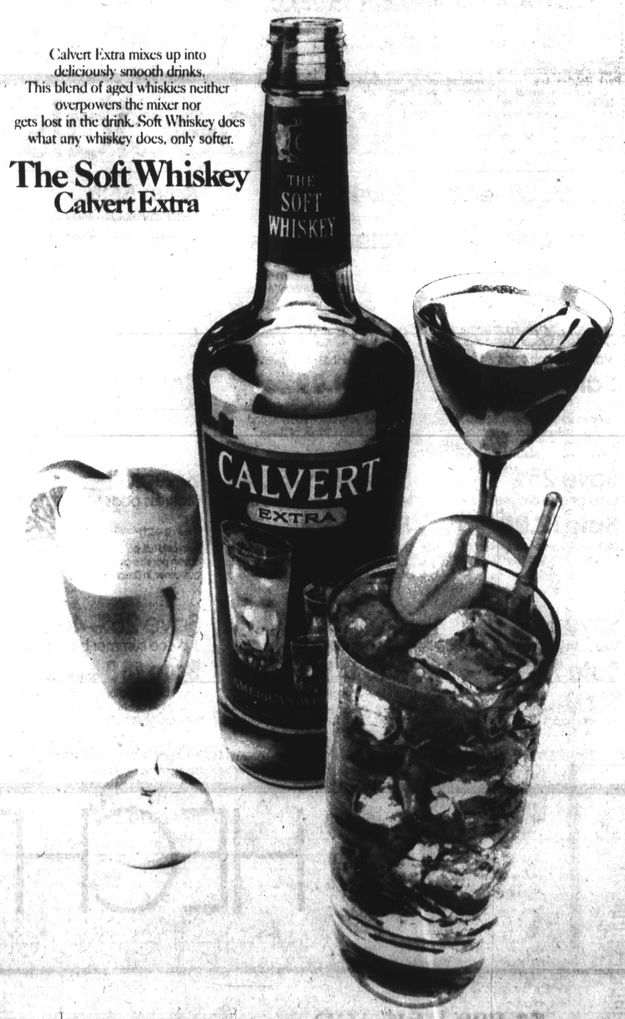

Provident marks opening of mental health center

The Provident Hospital Inc. Community Health Center ribbon cutting was held on Friday, March 23 on the grounds of the new $1.7 million health care facility.

The center is a non-profit organization designed to meet the mental health needs of the residents of the Provident area through a range of psychiatric services emphasizing dianostic treatment and prevention through ambulatory day and aftercare services.

It provides services for children, adults and families, in addition to specialized programs for the elderly, alcoholics and others.

Program participants for the afternoon ceremony included Kitty Brodie, mistress of ceremony, chairman of Professional Advisory Mental Health Board; Thomas W. Chapman, president, Provident Hospital Inc.; Dr. Jaques Clarmont, chief of psychiatry of Mental Health and Addiction Rossetta Sands, chairman of the board, Provident; Doris Scott, member of Professional Advisory Board, Mental Health, and Robert Lee, director of Mental Health and Addiction.

Final plans for official dedication of the center are presently being made. Some 5,000 persons are expected for the occasion.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY — Provident Hospital Inc. held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new $1.7 million mental health center. Shown at the occasion are (L to R): Jauqes Clarmont, Robert Lee, Eleanor Lee, Thomas Chapman, president of Provident; Rossetta Sands, chairman of the board of Provident, and Doris Scott.

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

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Attorney announces 5th District Council candidacy

As expected, Anthony Robinson, one of Baltimore's leading black attorneys, has thrown his hat into the ring as a candidate for the 5th District City Council seat.

An official announcement is expected to be made at a rally Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Rose Parks School, 4506 Park Heights Ave.

An active member in community affairs for several years, Robinson said he decided to run as a candidate in the 5th District because the majority of the citizens in the District do not receive the proper representation in City Hall.

"It shows in the lack of government services provided to the fifth," he said. "The high unemployment, poor housing, lack of facilities for our very young and very old are simply unacceptable to people who pay so very much income, sales and real estate taxes."

Robinson added that the citizens even pay taxes on liquor, cigarettes and entertainment, therefore they "expect more service for our dollars.

"A change in representation can help bring about better government," he said.

Robinson is a graduate of Morgan State with a doctorate from American University in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Maryland and Monumental Bar Association Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Bethel AME Church. He is also chairman of the Coldspring Charette and a newly formed committee fighting against South African investments in Baltimore.

Recently Robinson won the WOBECO Inc. Man of the Year Award and a major federal discrimination suit against the Baltimore Police Department.

Robinson said he has an excellent chance of winning a seat in the fifth because of the support he has already received and the fact that the district's population is predominantly black.

Problems continue to mount

Antioch laying off one-third of faculty

Antioch University's Maryland operation, faced with large and continuing deficits, is laying off one-third of its fulltime faculty, college officials said Thursday.

School officials would not say how large the deficits are, but sources estimate they totaled more than $600,000 over the the last four years.

Dean Doris Hall said the budget crunch came about primarily because college officials overestimated the enrollment at Antioch's Center for Human Ecology in Columbia. The 10-year-old Columbia facility will be closed in June, Dr. Hall said, although the school's visual arts center will continue to operate.

Students affected by the closing will be transferred to the north Charles Street campus.

Antioch's problems in Maryland have been mounting for the last several weeks.

Last week the State Board for Higher Education did not award the school an estimated $217,000 in state aid for fiscal 1980 adding the school is also in danger of not receiving state aid for this fiscal year.

If that wasn't, enough, the AFRO reported two weeks ago that Antioch's Homestead - Montebello Center on North Caroline suit to prevent the parent campus in Ohio from closing the center.

The suit charged that Antioch could not shut the school down without giving it enough time to seek accrediation separate from the parent university.

$1,000 REWARD
Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company will pay a total of $1,000 as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the four persons who assaulted its employee about 3:00 P.M. on Friday, March 23, 1979, in the 700 block of Graves Street, Baltimore City.
The Company will not disclose the name of any person or persons furnishing such information to it.
Anyone having such information should call 234-5411.
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And the rest isn't far behind, because the Guide packs all its information into 20 easy-to-read pages. Information on more than 40 phone-related subjects from long distance dialing tips to short cuts through the rest of the phone book.
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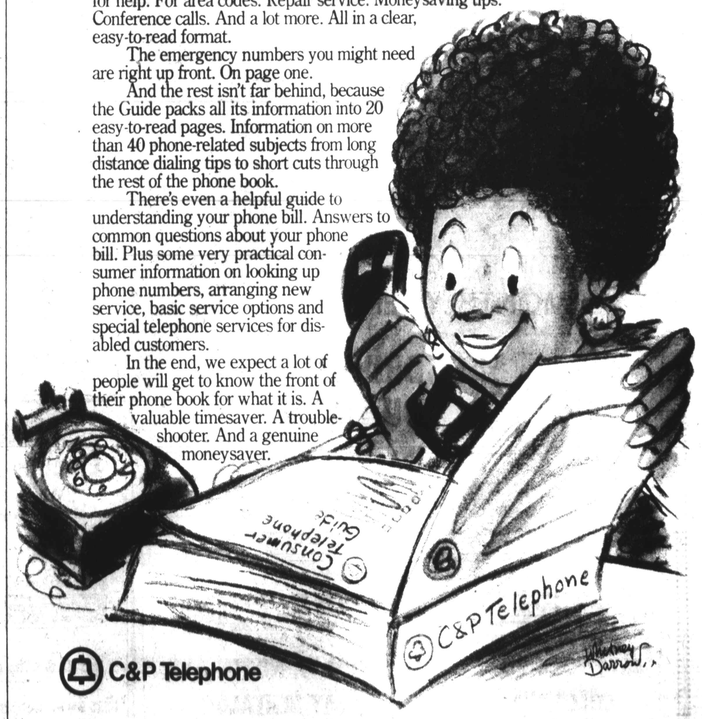

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