Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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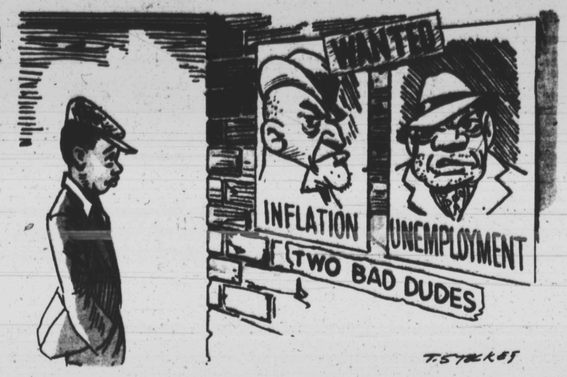


Harborplace— a mixed blessing

The new shopping bazaar, Harborplace, which opened at the water's edge downtown this week begins as a mixed blessing.

Designed to attract business as part of the Schaefer's administration's relentless program of revitalization for central Baltimore, Harborplace's myriad of shops offers items for luxury shoppers at a time when the city is suffering through its worse spell of unemployment in decades.

Much propaganda and boosterism accompanies the inauguration of Harborplace and we just hope just plain folks won't succumb to all the hoopla. It is a mite risky to hold up Harborplace as an instrument of economic growth and a possible major employer in town, as some of its most ardent boosters have done, when the nation's economy and Baltimore's worsening position in that overall picture is painfully felt by many of our residents.

We hope Harborplace does not become a symbol or catalyst for great expectations at this junction.

An $18 million shopping center, no matter where it is situated, must develop for a time before its potential is felt on a city - wide basis.

We suspect, from the kinds of businesses to be housed in Harborplace, that the city expects much revenue from tourists and visitors who assemble in the Convention Center adjacent rather than from the citizenry proper.

The bottom line is going to be how many times the dollars made in Harborplace are, in convention bureau lingo, "turned around" — in other words how many dollars for which Harborplace is the magnet will spread out to local retailers, jobbers, wholesalers, employees, taxi drivers, restaurant and other service workers etc.

The Rouse Company, ever adventurous, has high hopes for this project in which it took the lead development role.

A similar project, Faneuil Square in Boston, as the Baltimore AFRO reported prior to the referendum which approved use in Inner Harbor land for Harborplace, has not delivered to Bostonians what had been hoped for in terms of dollars for that city to our north.

James Rouse and his associates expect much more from Harborplace and we are optimistic that the predicted economic spark will ignite quickly.

Most commendable about Harborplace, insofar as our community is directly concerned, is the excellent building trades affirmative action program included in its construction phase.

Further minority entrepeneurs were actively recruited and assisted in getting in on the Harborplace action. We hope they can hold on and grow strong.

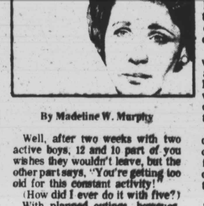
We caution against expecting too much of Harborplace too soon. Let us not deceive ourselves. Harborplace is not for everybody because not everybody will be able to afford its wares.

Whether this is by accident or design, time will tell.

What we must keep in mind is that the city's big job is developing other projects which enable the thousands of unemployed Baltimoreans to participate in Harborplace as consumers.

While we welcome the infusion of tour dollars that a Harborplace can attract, we must continue to emphasize the necessity for getting folks right here at home solvent and working again.

MADELINE MURPHY



Winning by intimidation

By Madeline W. Murphy

Well, after two weeks with two active boys, 12 and 10 part of you wishes they wouldn't leave, but the other part says, "You're getting too old for this constant activity!

(How did I ever do it with five?)

With planned outings, however, with cooperative aunts and uncles, their stay was both busy and enjoyable.

A trip to Congress and the huge statue buried in the sand at Hams point was an exciting diversion.

This sculpture called "The Awakening" was presented to Washington, by Princeton to the park. It is utilitarian as well as ornamental, since the huge bent leg, eight feet tall, makes an ideal sliding board if you have the daring to run up the shin bone, and keep the momentum and friction long enough to reach the top, so that you can slide down the thigh. The statuary of a man appears to be buried in the sand with a foot emerging on the right side, an arm raised high on the same side, the huge bearded head, yawning, and the other hand so large that a five - year - old might rest between the little and fourth fingers.

All are proportionately placed in relation to the size of the emerging limbs.

The younger grandson (school first place winner in the high and long jump) was successful every time. Not to be outdone, the older one also followed through, encouraged by our cheers.

Fascinated groups of people walked from limb to limb, axaming in awe each appendage. It was amusing to see how gingerly we walked over the sand that covered his body, so realistic was the concept.

The imaginative work is an indication of how play areas for children can include the whole family and at the same time develop a greater appreciation for the aesthetic.

Reverting to motherhood, however, though simple and routine, makes you appreciate all over again that fulltime noble profession.

One can't help but be apprehensive, not being sure of what they'd eat and remembering after a few subtle questions: "what do we do today, grandma?" how most kids are afflicted with the syndrome: never - mind - what - you - did - for - me - yesterday - what are - you - going - to do - for me - today?

("The only place you get credit is in the bank," I kept reminding myself!").

Visiting their cousins, coming from Chicago, away most of the time from their immediate family, was a rare treat. A trip to the courts one day, exposed them to the seamiest side of society and added a few obscenities to thier vocabulary, which they could have done without. But then that's life, a bit raw, but life nevertheless. All one could do was counsel them, pray they wouldn't repeat them!

Getting back to food, they both knew how adamant I continue to be about eating what is set before them. Yet there is the desire also to cook their favorite foods, especially if you're like me, believing that cooking is an act of love.

It seems after a few days they sensed my indecision. Rather than come right out and say they didn't like a particular food, they'd ask "Are we having stewed tomatoes (or whatever) tonight?" Knowing how they hated them, I'd indignantly answer, "Of course not!" "Good" they'd shout.

Torn between pleasing them and cooking what was "good" for them, they would cleverly timidate me into doing their bidding in the food department.

But they too were quite pleasantly self - sufficient. The older made a deep dish pizza from scratch, that fed us on Saturday, and the younger brought his own ingredients for a sinfully gooey baked candy concoction.

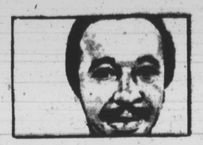
And it truth be known, their syndrome of go, go, go, came grindingly to a halt toward the end of the visit, with the plaintive statement: "Let's not go anywhere today. It just feels good to hang around the house for a change and do nothing!"

Going around the second time after rearing my own, revealed more clearly how wily and determined to have their way, children can really be.

They miss no opportunity to test your resolve. They are most facile in changing the subject, diverting your attention from a scolding to giving information. Whew!

But they do sneak into your heart when you are least aware, and how you miss them when they leave!

PARREN MITCHELL



Our youths, our future

"I believe the children are our future," sings George Benson in "Alma." "Teach them well and let them lead the way."

The "children"—our young people and our students; our wealth and our hope—are also the harbingers of our future.

In the past, young people and students, though often accompanied by their elders, have helped lead the way to changes in the very social structure of this country. Youth must help lead the way in the future, also.

Young black men and women in this country joined others who suffered brutality and sacrificed lives so that the generations after them might enjoy equal rights. Throughout the South in this country during the 1960s and 1970s, student boycotts, marches and sit-ins, led by groups such as Stokely Carmichael's Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee, eventually forced segregation into the past.

Segregation has pretty much died in the South.

It has not died at all in South Africa.

In South Africa, a country governed by a white minority, the rights of Africans have been flagrantly violated for decades by white settlers known as "Afrikaners." Blacks there are struggling to gain rights as basic as the right to vote for, and be governed by, people who will honestly represent them and help, not hurt their lives.

In another country in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, the fight for rights has resulted in a change in the white-minority government. Robert Mugabe was elected prime minister of Zimbabwe, finally pushing that country toward sincere majority-rule and black voting power.

However, the struggle in South Africa has been growing more fierce (and bloody in recent months). Despite promises by South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha to make reforms in social and economic areas, little has changed. Bothe has even suffered verbal attacks from the more conservative members of his political party for suggesting reforms.

Because there has been little improvement in South Africa, violence has spread. Not only is there violence between South African troops and Namibian troops (blacks in South West Africa fighting for independence from South Africa), but also between South African police and black and colored (mixed-race) youths.

These students have been protesting the inferior and segregated education they are receiving, as well as the racism entrenched throughout South Africa society.

In 1976 the black students in Soweto, a black town near Johannesburg, boycotted the schools in protest of the conditions. Riots followed and more than 600 persons killed.

The issue has not been settled and this past April colored students demanded one integrated national education system, and equal citizenship with whites for black people. Riot police reportedly arrested 645 striking students, who are supported by colored parents, teachers and social leaders. The colored people are beginning to identify their problems and struggle more closely with those of the blacks.

In June 1980, black students began holding commemorative services for the 1976 riots in Soweto, defying a recent government proclamation banning for one month any political gathering of over 10 persons which might spark boycotts or violence.

On June 16, South African police opened fire on black youths who had gathered near Soweto and in the city of Bloemfontein, 250 miles from Soweto. Police claimed the youths were looting and stoning cars. Thirty-five persons were reported wounded.

The South African government then banned journalists from the troubled areas and said that some foreign reporters were inciting the blacks to riot.

The current situation in South Africa is deplorable. It is time that South Africa, a country of approximately 25 million whites (Afrikaners) 2.5 million Indians, and almost 20 million blacks—the original Africans and inheritors of that land—recognizes the laws of justice and the right to freedom.

Tent City

At best Tent City, the crusade for the poor of Maryland, staged last weekend in Annapolis, is a portent of the Eighties indicating that direct protest will again be in vogue.

The Anne Arundel County NAACP is to be praised for mounting this symbolic demonstration in a dignified manner and refusing to cater to the daily media thirst for excitement and menace.

In the Seventies we drifted back into conventional methods of waging the freedom struggle with little result. Our enemies are prepared to sit and talk endlessly so long as they do not have to do anything beyond discussion. Direct action forces decisions and narrows the options.

We are glad to see a grass roots crusade such as Tent City developing because talk will do little to address and resolve the problems poor Americans face these days.

At worst, however, Tent City to our mind seemed a trifle fuzzy as to options.

It was correct to give the governor a list of demands as to what his administration can do directly to alleviate the plight of poor Marylanders.

With Tent City's parades and speeches behind us now, however, and with the governor agreeing to do nothing more than meet with the advocates of the poor once again, we sense a Mexican stand-off.

Harry Hughes told the Tent City leadership he could not declare a war on poverty as they demanded and in effect, that he had done all he was going to do about the problems they presented to him.

Beyond threatening to vote him out of office, we are not clear on what the Tent City leaders will use for leverage currently. Hughes has three years left to talk about poverty which does not help those who need help now.

Martin Luther King understood that direct action must have a specific attainable goal. Crusades cannot go down vague sidetracks. The people must win something if they are to persevere.

Tent City is a beginning.

When Hughes says "no" again in two weeks we hope the advocates for the poor the NAACP assembled so skillfully last week have a specific next step charted.

Black business confab

If Harry Hughes said "no" to the Tent City forces he might have been thinking that the first state - wide and state - supported black business conference held here at the same time tents were pitched in Annapolis was his way of saying "yes."

The theme of this conference was economic growth and self - determination for black entrepeneurs. More black businesses mean more black jobs.

The governor gave his stamp of approval to this meeting and at least held out hope that Maryland intended to step up its assistance to minority businesses.

The degree to which the state burks itself into this mission will tell the tale.

We have long felt that Harry Hughes is a fiscal conservative and he would rather prime the black business pump than expand the welfare rolls.

The Hughes administration's support of black businesses can be easily menitored and measured.

Maybe this is the Hughes way of declaring that war on poverty he refused to declare for the Tent City legions.

—LETTERS—

Recover control of destructive impulse

Dear AFRO:

Thirty years ago Franklin Roosevelt was, in some circles, a bitterly hated president. The most shocking remarks were made about him. But no one in the 12 years of his presidency took a shot at him. (The one attempt to assassinate Roosevelt came a few weeks before his inauguration.)

For a good part of the 1930s America had 12 to 15 million people out of work through no fault of their own. Many of the unemployed deeply resented the American business community.

But they did not go around killing the businessmen, although it must be said that businessmen or their hired cops sometimes killed them.

This is the experience that produced the older generation. They had their share of turbulence, but it was turbulence within a society that still respected certain forms of stability.

People did not murder leaders with whom they disagreed. Wars had a rational reason and goal. Their children and grandchildren have had a different experience. The political memory of a first voter in 1980 goes back to about 1960. These have been the years of the least rational war in our history.

And in recent years three men have caught the imagination of the young and summoned them to action in service of the highest possibilities in American life.

One after another, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., Robert F. Kennedy fell before assassins' bullets.

Why should not the young begin to despair about such a society? Why should they not make drastic judgements? What has their experience of public affairs in America been but a series of ghastly killings at home and a ghastly war abroad?

One can understand why the late President Johnson, who was born in 1908 and grew up in the years when acrimony did not lead to assassination, should insist that deviations from his experience can only be accidents and aberrations, irrelevant to the course of American life.

But cannot his generation make some effort to understand why the young must reject statements of national self-exculpation as cruelly sanctimonious after they have seen men in whom they repose the greatest hope, shot?

Nothing is more dispiriting than this insistence of the old that their own experience is the normal experience. For the young, the normal experience has been the murder of leaders who have forcefully asked America to live up to its ideals.

We cannot blame the epidemic of murder at home exclusively on deranged and solitary individuals who are separate from the rest of us. For these individuals are plainly weak and suggestable men, stamped by our society with an instinct for hatred and a compulsion toward violence.

We cannot blame the epidemic of murder abroad exclusively on the perversity of those who will not stop doing things because we think they should stop doing them. For the zeal with which we have pursued an irrational war, a war which makes so little sense in the classical terms of foreign policy suggest internal impulses of hatred and vilence demanding outlet and shaping our foreign policy to their ends.

The terrible things we do to our own people, the terrible things that we do to other people, we cannot take the easy course and blame these things on anyone but ourselves.

If we continue to say it is all the work of lunatics and foreigners, that nothing is wrong and that our society is beyond criticism, if we cry like MacBeth "Thou canst not say I did it, never shake they gory locks at me," then we lose hope of recovering control of the destructive impulse within. Then we will only continue the downward spiral of social decomposition and moral degradation.

GARY ADAMS

Mayor thanks the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your coverage of Mrs. Joan Mondale's recent visit to Baltimore and for your coverage of the dedication for Reuben Kramer's bronze sculpture of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

The excellence of the media's coverage of these events contributed much to their successes. I deeply appreciate the part that The AFRO - AMERICAN played in these successes.

Having your support and the support of other concerned media people means a great deal since without the dedication and cooperation of people like yourself, many of Baltimore's arts projects would be impossible. Thank you again for your excellent coverage and your generous support.

MAYOR
WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

'A NEW DAY BEGUN

Samuel BANKS

Put aside childish things

The time has come, given the prodigious and lacerating socio-economic crises which beset and bedevil 30 million black Americans, 450,000 black Baltimoreans in particular, to confront urgent and grave realities.

Illusory pursuits and worship of tinsel and baubles as reflected in flights of rhetoric, "boogeying down," perpetual dissembling and sycophancy in order to curry the favor of whites and, tragically, a painful disinclination to face the reality of being black in a white dominated and controlled society contribute to most blacks in Baltimore and the nation being at the edge of the precipice.

In terms of a local focus, the time is long overdue when black middle and upper income must end their stultifying placidity, fear and inaction. The time, in short, for the sake of our posterity to assert fully our manhood and womanhood in the body politic.

The poignant, probing and prophetic words of Paul in First Corinthians have vital and gripping pertinence:

"When I was a child,
I spoke like a child;
when I became a man,
I gave up childish ways."

The depth of suffering facing a majority of black Baltimoreans, as is true of blacks across the nation, makes it imperative that black middle income and upper income citizens, abandon "childish ways" immediately. "Childish ways" are defined here as those actions which are immature and unrealistic in the face of stark socio-economic realities.

The greatest failure being the unwillingness to identify with the impoverished black majority in Baltimore in the hope of gaining the approbation and praise of white people. This, to be sure, represents the apotheosis or highest expression of "childish ways."

It remains true that "To whom much is given much is required." Minorities, particularly non-white minorities, tend to be judged, rightly or wrongly, by the socio-economic state of a majority of their number.

Consequently, black Americans who ascend the corporate, academic, governmental and social ladders of our nation must keep in mind that the condition of the masses of our black brothers and sisters who have not achieved success will affect the quality of stability of their success and subsequent advancement to higher levels. It is this grim and incontrovertible reality that imposes on us the necessity of continually "paying ones dues."

Another unfortunate dimension of the desperate state of black Americans is that black youths have had to assume adult responsibilities earlier in order to help keep their families afloat with food, clothing and shelter.

The number of dropouts, now in excess of two million a year, and pushouts from the nation's 16,000 school districts serving 46 million students and the escalating evictions from houses, especially here in Baltimore, painfully indicate that the collective efforts of black adults and their offspring, in their tender years, for the most part, are a losing proposition.

Black middle and upper income Baltimoreans have a moral and human imperative to keep faith with our priceless heritage and become the advocates of the black masses whose aspirations and dreams for a better quality of life have been obscured and frustrated by shoddy education, endemic racism and the sophisticated demands of high technology and cybernetics.

It remains for black Baltimoreans who "have made it" to remain, in season and out of season, the constant and incessant advocates of the masses of marginal and destitute black Baltimoreans.

The time, to be sure, has come to end the masquerade and to confront the world as it is. The time is now when we must wage the struggle for our manhood and womanhood and jettison childish endeavors.

Howard Thurman, a world-renowned and respected theologian and teacher, offers a tantalizing and piercing challenge for all of us in his absorbing "The Inward Journey:"

"It is a strange freedom to be adrift in the world of men without a sense of anchor anywhere. Always there is the need of mooring, the need for the firm grip on something that is rooted and will not give. The urge to be accountable to someone, to know that beyond the individual himself there is an answer that must be given — that cannot be denied.

"The deed a man performs must be weighed in a balance held by another's hand. The very spirit of a man tends to panic from the desolation of going nameless up and down the streets of other minds where no salutation greets and no friendly recognition makes secure. It is a strange freedom to be adrift in the world of men."

It, too, is a "strange freedom" to be "caught-up" in "childish ways" when the times demand strong black men and women of intelligence, courage and intestinal fortitude to affirm and human opportunitites to the long-suffering, wretched and excluded black masses of Baltimore and the nation.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

(Marsha R. German substituted for Ms. Oliver on Sunday June 22 when the 4th Councilmanic District Community Service Awards ceremonies were held at New Psalmist Baptist Church. Here is her report.)

BALTIMORE'S BEST

"BALTIMORE is rich in history, in culture, in land and above all rich in its people." I have been proclaiming since I arrived here two weeks ago that you have. SUNDAY AFTERNOON at the "New Psalmist Baptist Church", The Second Annual, 4th Councilmanic District Community Service Awards were presented, with Councilman Michael Bowen Mitchell leading the charge.

I would not have missed this event for anything. It was wonderful to see that so many people are indeed appreciated.

And each person is all those things that I say about Baltimore, rich in spirit, rich in pride and filled with a sense of accomplishment.

THE 1980 Fourth Councilmanic Awards Ceremony marks the second year of honoring citizens and organizations that have labored with distinction for the betterment of our city, state and community.

It is refreshing to know there are those in the community who are still concerned and tirelessly seek to improve the general quality of life for the less fortunate. This was the tribute paid to more than 75 recipients of the Community Service Award.

I have been to hundreds of Awards Ceremonies all over the United States in the past 20 years. But this has got to rank as one of the most memorable. First it was held in a black church, which of course, is the very foundation of black culture.

A CHURCH that was off limits to us when I moved away from Baltimore in 1962 is now black and fabulous.

Rev. Dr. Walter S. Thomas is pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church at Franklin and Cathedral Streets in the heart of downtown Baltimore.

IF YOU HAVE not heard him, please take the time to go and do so. If you can not go to the church, listen to the radio Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m. - WXYV FM 103, and Sunday nights at 12:05 a.m. - WBAL AM 1100. He is just 30 years old with wisdom far beyond his years.

REV. THOMAS' message was taken from Proverbs 30:28, "The spider taketh hold with her hands and is in kings' palaces."

As you know a spider quietly goes about the business of spinning a web on the wall of the palace and no one notices. While she is spin- ning her web, she takes in everything, she hears and sees all that is going on. And of course, no one, but no one pays any attention to her.

SHE SEES the graft, corruption, racism, sexism, and the terrible, terrible waste, the programs for the poor that are lost, jobs for the needy that go unfilled; she sees it all.

REV. THOMAS likened our black legislators to the spider on the wall, waiting for the right minute.

When the time comes the spider can strike and bring down the King.

THE KING knows the spider is there, but all he does is send the housekeeper to clean you away. Our people must always be on the lookout for the housekeeper who is being sent to sweep us away.

The black legislators who were there(101st Senator Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Cong. Parren Mitchell, Sen. Clarence Mitchell III, Councilwoman Victorine Q. Adams and Councilman Kweisi Mfume and Councilman Michael B. Mitchell) as well as all of the 75 awards recipients are doing a fabulous job of staying ahead of the "housekeeper".

FOR OUR "101st Sen. Clarence Mitchell Jr., it was a surprise.

He has been honored by the President of the United States, by the state of Maryland, the city of Baltimore, the NAACP's highest awards. The list is endless.

But before Sunday, he had not been honored by his own district. The district that he lives and works in. On March 8, 1911 Mitchell Jr. was born on Carrollton Ave. in the Fourth District. In 1941 with his pretty wife, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, and baby boy Clarence III they moved into their house on Druid Hill Avenue. Their sons, Keiffer, Michael and George were born there. All of the Mitchells have lived their lives in the Fourth District.

Clad in yellow and black the Trooper's Color Guard escorted Mr. Mitchell up the middle aisle of the church to receive his surprise award. That is, it was a surprise to him, but not to the mayor or the governor, who both sent gifts and citations.

—MORE LETTERS—

Houston-Woods should be Douglass again

Dear AFRO:

I recently addressed a letter to Dr. John L. Crew Sr., superintendent of Baltimore City Public Schools in reference to renaming the Houston- Woods, Jr.-Sr. High School No. 181 back to Frederick Douglass Senior High School No. 450.

I thought the name should be given back to Old Douglass once located at Calhoun and Baker Sts. because it was one of the first three high schools built in the United States for blacks to attend.

As far back as the 1940s blacks could only attend two high schools in Baltimore which were Old Douglass and Dunbar High which still exist. The rest of the high schools in the city were for whites only.

All blacks educated through 1939 graduated from Old Douglass because Dunbar High didn't graduate its first class until June 1940. As we all know Baltimore schools were not integrated until 1954.

Also due to the rich heritage Old Douglass gave its students it produced such greats as our own Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall, Cab Calloway, Avon Long of "Roots" fame and myself (smile) to name a few.

Of course I am aware of the fact the reason for moving Old Douglass to its present site where Old Western High once stood was to house more students because Old Douglass had run out of space.

But in my opinion this gave no reason to change its name because there are too many other outstanding blacks whose name could have been placed at the Old Western site and the name of Frederick Douglass retained at its original location at Calhoun and Baker Streets.

Furthermore there is an old school lot still standing at the intersection of Calhoun and Cumberland Sts. (rear the Houston Woods No. 181 school where an additional building could have and can still be constructed to enlarge the present school thereby renaming and giving back to the school its rightful place in society and its due name of the great Frederick Douglass Senior High School No. 450.

Since Druid Hill Park was relatively close to Old Douglass, the bowl near Druid Hill Park lake could have been used for its athletic activities.

After all, Dunbar retained its name and Old Douglass should have retained its name. As the old adage goes, "It's no fairer for the goose than it is for the gander."

And it was also my alma mater. The name change I am sure would glorify a lot of people's well-being as well as my own.

WARDELL F. CLARK

Increase police salaries

Dear AFRO:

I am forwarding the below correspondence to advise you of the great difficulty the Baltimore Police Department is having in attracting and retaining qualified police officers at our present salary level.

We are also encountering serious difficulty in attaining the department's authorized strength of 3,171 officials, as there are presently 204 authorized vacancies for police officer within this agency.

The critical need is obvious! For the Baltimore Police Department to attract and retain qualified applicants and officers, we must move in a positive direction. This is particularly true, in light of our community's call for competent personnel to render services in accordance with high standards which are necessary in this particular profession.

The current difficulty we are encountering in our recruiting effort is not due to a dearth of applicants, but to a lack of qualified applicants. In calendar year 1979, only 15 percent of the over 2,000 applicants who applied were appointed police officer.

Police enforcement problems may be directly related to turn over of personnel. Since July 1, 1979, the Baltimore Police Department has had 139 well - trained police officers resign for various reasons of which salary was paramount.

Forty - four of those were black! Most of these officers cited low salary and subsequent employment with other law enforcement agencies as cause for resigning.

If the Baltimore Police Department is to maintain its professional status with the community of Baltimore, the state of Maryland and the nation at large, we must be able to attract and retain qualified officers while offering career opportunities through upward mobility.

A competitive starting salary of $15,000 per year would stem the tide of resignations, in addition to attracting highly qualified community members to the professional career of police officer. We need to reward those experienced officers who have remained dedicated in spite of low salaries, and to reduce expenses in the education and training of new officers.

Every trained police officer, with no less than five months of entrance level education and training with one year in the patrol division, ultimately costs the citizens of Baltimore over $35,000 of their hard earned tax dollars.

In summary, the Baltimore Police Department cannot competitively recruit and retain competent personnel until the citizens of Baltimore are willing to support the price for maintaining its level of professional competence and services.

The Baltimore Police Department is fighting a losing battle until salaries are increased. If we achieve a competitive level of recruitment, we can therefore raise and recruit quality personnel which the citizens of Baltimore City so rightfully deserve.

DONALD E. WOODS
Major,
Director, Personnel Division,
Baltimore City Police
Department

Year of the Family, By Marion Banfield

Encourage youngsters' communication

I'm beginning to agree with the thought that our children are just born smarter than way back in the 1930s. I am meeting more and more 24-month-old boys and girls who speak in sentences.

If you have that kind of child in your family, enjoy! What happens occasionally is that the family members fail to appreciate the special qualities in that child. qualities in that child.

Since those youngsters tend to be thinkers, parents complain about being challenged when they make a statement. What is called a challenge to authority may really be the curious mind, the well-read, the problem-solving mind going beyond past family patterns of thought and behavior.

What an older generation may interpret as "talking back" or disobedience could be a fresh point of view doubting family beliefs and prejudices.

"losing control" that they demand complete compliance as though the child were a Siamese twin attached to them at the brain.

The fact is, we live in a century where beliefs are being questioned. Traditions, customs, mores and prejudices are being closely examined.

Families cannot expect to have children totally accepting of the words and ideas of parents and grandparents. What we need is exploring of differences.

The younger mind has no guarantee of the rightness of their ideas. What helps is speaking, listening and a discussion in the spirit of mutual respect.

Family life ought not to be a battle between the generations. The old and the young and youngest can enjoy communication which includes differing interpretations if respect for others is the fundamental attitude taught and expected of every family member.

Mel de Rutledge Jr.

Urban America Housing Report

Expressed, implied house warranties

Isn't it ironic that a new $50 household appliance comes with a manufacturer's warrant, while a new $50,000 house does not?

Or think about your last car purchase. Would you have bought that new car if it had not been covered by at least 12 - month or 12,000 - mile warranty? Probably not.

Yet, when the single biggest investment of a lifetime is made, buying a new home, warranties are not expected.

But with the consumer movement in full swing, warranties on new houses are not a thing of the future. They are available today.

Boost builder's image

Builders across the country are discovering that offering a warranty on a new home makes it more marketable. Home buyers expect a house that is sold with a warranty to have a better design and better quality materials and workmanship than a comparably priced unwarranted house.

More important, they expect that a builder who warrants a home will be available during the warranty period to carry out his part of the bargain and correct problems as they surface.

In other words, the warranty is read to reveal something about the builder — that he is not a fly - by - night. It is a good image to project in light of the fact that Federal Trade Commission studies show that new home defects rank among the top consumer problems in the country.

Here's HOW

Some jurisdictions, such as New Jersey and Minnesota, now require insured warranties on newly constructed homes. Segments of the industry have adopted their own warranty protection plans.

The Home Owners Waranty Program (HOW) was created five years ago by the National Association of Home Builders. The purpose of this program is to provide house buyers with long - term assurance on new homes.

More than 11,000 builders nationwide now participate in HOW, which is operated by the Home Owners Warranty Corporation, a subsidiary of NAHB. This company licenses local HOW councils that carry out the program on a regional level.

All the states except Arkansas and Massachusetts have approved HOW, using the New Jersey and Minnesota warranties as models. (Jersey builders offering HOW are exempt from the state warranty requirements.)

How HOW works

How HOW works is rather interesting. Local councils consist of member builders who meet performance, financial and technical qualifications. Once selected, all the houses constructed by a member builder are covered by HOW.

For a year after the house is sold, the builder guarantees his workmanship, materials and structural components according to standards set by the local council. Structural components as well as plumbing, heating, electrical, and cooling systems are covered during the second year.

Should the builder refuse to honor the warranty, go bankrupt, or otherwise vanish, insurance takes over completely, and affords protection through the 10th year of ownership on major structural defects.

HOW's price, $2 per $1,000 of sales price, is initially paid by the builder and, is initially paid by the builder and, of course, is passed on to the buyer. The 10 - year coverage remains in force and unaffected by a sale of the house during that time.

protected houses include the possible waiver of VA inspections when processing loan applications, as well as slightly favorable interest rates in some areas.

It should be noted that while HOW is a highly regarded program, it is not the only warranty protection program available. Witnessing HOW's success, many little insurance companies and national real estate broker franchising organizations have followed suit, offering comprehensive warranty plans of their own.

Most do not require inspections unless structural defects are covered. The average policy costs about $250 a year and may well be worth the price. Such policies are also available for used homes and can be purchased by sellers to make their houses more marketable.

Implied warranties

Just because a home is not protected by some form of express warranty does not mean that a homebuyer will be left out in the cold if trouble develops.

Court decisions in about 30 states have held that the very act of selling a new home creates an implied warranty even though no express or written warranty was made by the seller.

Even in areas where no legal obligation exists to warrant used homes, a trend is clear. An increasing number of state legislatures are passing warranty bills designed to protect buyers of new homes.

Glossary of real estate terms

BILL OF SALE — A document in writing that transfers title to personal property.

BINDER, REAL ESTATE — A preliminary agreement between a buyer and seller in which the basic price and terms of a real estate contract are included. The final contract is then prepared and signed by both parties. In some instances, the term refers to the actual sales contract.

BLANKET MORTGAGE — A lien on more than one parcel or unit of land, frequently incurred by subdivders or developers who have purchased a single tract of land for the purpose of dividing it into smaller parcels for sale or development. Also called blanket trust deed.

BLIGHTED AREA — A declining area in which property values are adversely affected by destructive natural or economic forces, such as encroachments, inharmonious property usages, changing social and economic neighborhoods, or rapidly depreciating buildings.

BONA FIDE — In good faith, without fraud.

BOND — An interest - bearing certificate of debt with a maturity date. An obligation of government or business corporation. A real estate bond is a written obligation usually secured by a mortgage or a trust deed.

BOOK VALUE — The capitalized cost of an asset less depreciation taken for accounting purposes based upon the method used for the computation of depreciation over the useful life of the asset. Also, the actual value of an asset after the deduction of depreciation and all liabilities is the net book value.

BREAK - EVEN POINT — In residential or commercial property, the figure at which occupancy income is equal to all required expenses and debt service.