—Rosemont Community

(Continued from Page A7)

said. "I'm sure our next job will be improved because the Department of Public Works is very cognizant of communications. Our primary concern is the cooperation of the people to cut down on any confusion."

The initiative taken by Rosemont residents will serve to make conditions better for other communities throughout the city, according to Hudson.

Del. Elijah Cummings, district 39 is pleased with the city's recent response to his constituents.

"The terms the city has agreed to call for an extraordinary effort," Cummings said. "I do feel they could have done a lot more in terms of notifying the community of its plans, but they have since admitted their mistakes and are willing to correct them," he added.

"I feel good about it because the people who live in that neighborhood are people who could afford to move out years ago, but they chose to stay," Cummings said. "The city has to support the people who have kept it together."

—Safer School

(Continued from Page A7)

education" schools called out to the community Wednesday night and the community responded.

Lights went on in all public schools Wednesday night to encourage principals, parents, teachers, students, and all other concerned community residents to help the school system identify priorities for the schools.

Greeted with video tapings by Dr. Hunter, Mayor Schmoke, and School Board President, Joseph Smith, everyone was asked to outline problems in schools causing the most concern. Dr. Hunter and other school officials plan to review the community's suggestions and respond to them.

At the hand of Dr. Hunter, "Lights on" was the first all city meeting ever held in Baltimore City Schools.

THE WISE INVESTMENT
The AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
Subscribe Today!

HECHT'S • SHOP SATURDAY 8 A.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT

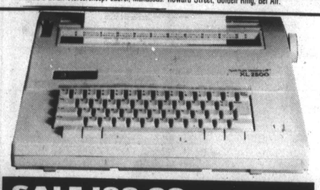
BIGGEST SALE DAY OF THE YEAR

PRICE BREAK 649.99
LOWEST PRICE EVER ON A MAGNAVOX VIDEOWRITER 450 WORD PROCESSOR WITH 50,000 WORD SPELL CHECKER AND THESAURUS.
- Save $349 and pay just $45 per month*
- Built-in mail merge software, envelope template
- Built-in word processing software
- Prompt screen instructs you through every phase of operation, uses standard 3½" disk (approx. 70 pages)
- Model 7722 (D.088) Reg. 999.95

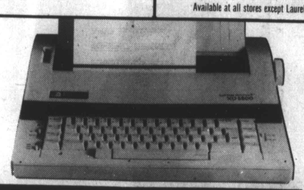
Available at all stores except Laurel, Manassas, Howard Street, Golden Ring, Bel Air.

SALE 1069.99
SAVE $399 ON A EPSON APEX IBM COMPATIBLE COLOR PERSONAL COMPUTER AND PAY JUST $75 PER MONTH.*
- IBM compatible with color monitor
- PFS® First Choice™ software included
- 8088-2 Dual speed (4.77/8MHZ) microprocessor
- 512K RAM memory, built-in parallel port
- (D.088) Reg. 1469.95

Apex 80 printer. Reg. 299.99, SALE 229.99
Available at all stores except Laurel, Manassas, Columbia, Salisbury, Howard St., Golden Ring, Owings Mills, Bel Air.

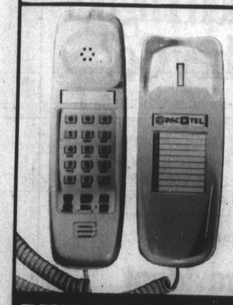


SALE 188.88
LOWEST PRICE EVER ON A SMITH CORONA ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY TYPEWRITER.
- Electronic dictionary checks spelling of 50,000 commonly used words
- WordFind® locates errors, WordEraser® lifts off entire word
- Model 2500 (D.088) Reg. 269.95

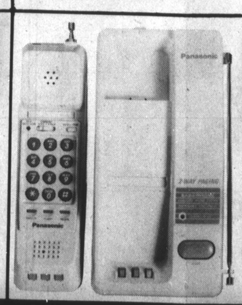


SALE 248.88
LOWEST PRICE EVER ON A SMITH CORONA MEMORY TYPEWRITER WITH DICTIONARY.
- 7000 character editable text memory, two-line correction memory
- 60,000 word electronic dictionary, 16 character LCD, WordEraser®
- Model 5500 (D.088) Reg. 349.95

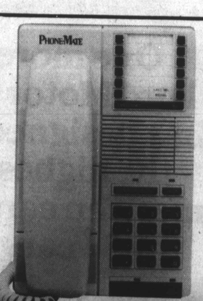
SALE 68.88
SAVE 45% ON A PHONE-MATE® COMPACT ANSWERER WITH REMOTE TURN-ON.
- Easy one-touch operation, remote turn-on, personal memo
- Tollsaver, voice activated with call screening, save message capability
- Model 6600 (D.329) Reg. 129.95



SALE 34.98
GENUINE BELL® TELEPHONE.
- 40% off. Pactel
- 13 number memory plus redial
- Three one-touch speed dial buttons
- Electronic hold with LED and auto-release
- Model PB2203 (D.329) Reg. 59.95



SALE 68.88
CORDLESS TELEPHONE.
- 30% off. Panasonic
- 1000' range from base
- Two-way paging
- Digital security codes
- Auto-security lockout with handset in base
- Last number redial
- Model 3805/7 (D.329) Reg. 99.95



SALE 99.99
ANSWERER/SPEAKERPHONE.
- 50% off. Phone-Mate®
- Integrated telephone with answerer
- 11 number memory
- Remote turn-on
- Tollsaver
- Speakerphone, hold
- Model 6570/5150 (D.329) Reg. 199.95

BUY NOW, NO PAYMENT UNTIL FEBRUARY, 1989

You may choose the convenience of deferred billing on your Hecht's charge account for purchases of $250 or more. This means that you won't be billed for these purchases until your January, 1989 statement with NO FINANCE CHARGE on these purchases during the deferred billing period. We retain the right to terminate the deferred billing program at any time.

*HECHT'S TIME OPTION PLAN
Monthly payments shown are available under Hecht's Time Option Plan, subject to usual credit approval and state and local taxes where applicable. Minimum eligible purchase is $200.

HECHT'S
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B3
■ Kids Talk B6

SOUTHWESTERN AND WALBROOK schools are sharing facilities. Here's a report on:

HOW THEY ARE COPING

By Jill P. Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

It's just a plain, brown building.

On the southside of the city, past old Mount Olivet Cemetery, atop a long-limbed hill, stands a stout, unadorned building. The only sign of life is it's branching out to more than 3,000 teenagers everyday.

Colored from ground up in plain brown, tightly arranged rectangular windows line the building, seeming almost lost in the mass of plain and brown.

Southwestern High School was constructed to give the appearance of three separate structures in one. It's borders are student and staff parking lots, sometimes crowded pavement, and plots of grass frequently trampled by Reeboks, Nikes, and Air Jordans.

It's seclusion almost makes it seem a safe and separate entity set apart from the urbanism of the city. Almost, but not quite.

Two familiar white vehicles, blue stripes painted on the sides, remain parked outside the main entrance during the school day. Holdovers from the shootings and stabbing so highly publicized a few short weeks ago. A few blocks away, at the bottom of the hill, the city is close by. A city where people are fighting over guns. A city where children grow up feeling they have to protect themselves.

Designed to dispense knowledge, the three-dimensional structure resembles the city where it lives. A plain, brown building on the outside, but inside, its three dimensions come in the form of its people. The good, the bad, and the indifferent.

A mass of students pervade the building, many of them average. Looking closely, a few stand out like the windows in front.

I walked through the doors at 8 a.m., actually it was 8:10. First period had already begun. Greeted at the door by the principal and other administrators, I held my head down in shame knowing punctuality is important in the job market. Remembering being told, "Employers don't give out late passes." Not only that but, you better have an ID if you want to pass through this door.

"It's simple. If you don't have your ID, go home and get it," said principal, Hilbert D. Stanley. Stanley, has been criticized by some teachers for enforcing this policy so stringently, but on this point, he is unshakeable.

"Other places will not let you in without an ID. That's life. Try getting into social security without an ID," he says.

Walking through the halls of the school is like walking through downtown Baltimore. There is a liberal mix of black and white, more black than white. A few wear suits and carry briefcases, but most wear designer jeans, British Knights, and leather jackets.

Most come well prepared with pencils, notebooks, and textbooks, but a select few come empty handed.

First period was gym. I stood and watched a class of 12th graders punch an over-sized volleyball back and forth across a volleyball net. Just as I was getting into the game, a boy as tall as my nose walked in and asked me my name. I asked him what he was doing in the gym.

"I never go to first period because it's chemistry and I hate it," he said.

"Aren't you afraid of getting in trouble," I asked.

"No. If they can't catch me, they can't suspend me," he said before running out of the gym as the gym teacher came over to ask what he was doing there.

At the sounding of the bell, I went to the office to meet Tyrone Patterson. He wasn't there. A lady in the office with long dangling braids decorated in gold metallic beads, leather suit, and long, long nails tried to help me locate him. She gave me the number of his homeroom class. Then, he walked in.

Homeroom had begun, but Tyrone didn't get a late pass. A senior and student leader, talking to Tyrone seems at times more like talking to an administrator than a student. On the way to class, we stopped off at his locker. Tyrone is one of the more fortunate students who has his own locker. With the infusion of Walbrook and Southwestern students into one school building, some students were left lockerless. But the necessary number of lockers is in the process of being constructed and only a few that are impossible to open will remain a problem halting students' use.

Homeroom was somewhat chaotic. "Sit down before I mark you absent," the teacher said. "If school is unimportant, I don't see why you come. I've been in middle schools where people had more sense." Not many paid attention to the daily announcement, but mostly talked and occasionally hollered out "here" as roll was being taken.

In chemistry, the teacher, Donald Wessel gave an assignment which took up most of the 54 minute class period. Most of the class got busy with calculators trying to solve the problems as if they were being tested. The student I sat beside did not attempt to work out one problem because he "didn't have a calculator." Having failed chemistry last year, he thought working out the problems without the aid of a calculator was a waist of time. A well-versed boy who likes to talk a lot, my neighbor jumped on the band wagon at the end of the class period and asked the teacher some questions about the exercise. I thought, Isn't he afraid the teacher will discover he's done no work? "Lack of attention span is a built in part of our commercial society," Mr. Wessel said, fully aware of what some of his students are up to.

The cafeteria was calm. I sat with Tyrone in the senior lounge. It was actually peaceful and we didn't eat lunch, so I took in the scenery. One eye catching sight was a display of glitter and gold, it tilted down to form a slope on one side, and in the back it faded out of sight. A hairstyle on one girl's head.

The library was refreshing. A place where a lot of students like to visit, and surprisingly enough, they do it on their own time. "I like to come here everyday during my lunch period just to relax," Tyrone said.

English class was different than any other class of the day. Upon entering the classroom, we were greeted with a drill. Next, a pleasant surprise. Visitors to the school from the city's Commonwealth program encouraged students to fill out Commonwealth cards. Commanding everyone's attention, Commonwealth promises jobs or college. But, only if you qualify.

The cloudy, dreary day outside, didn't seem to show its face inside. The energy level of students and teachers was high. It's hard to keep up in a world where drastic changes take place every 54 minutes with the sounding of the bell.

Walking through the hallways, and climbing the stairwells is a challenge, because they are crowded. But the only time the presence of two schools in one building is felt is during class change time, on the stairwells.

Cruising the building, next period, all was quiet. No action to be found. I went into the counselors' office to get a key to the bathroom which is kept locked during class periods. My entry into the bathroom was a signal for six to eight girls to walk in, brush hair, gossip, and touch-up their faces through smeared mirrors, smudged with graffiti and grime.

Across the hall, the counselor's office is packed with college information, emphasizing black colleges. Down the hall three girls sit together on a table with their legs crossed waiting for the bell to ring.

In my journey to the basement of the building, I stumbled across Futures classes in action. Futures is a program designed to enrich the lives of "at risk" kids and keep them in school. It is one of many program carried on inside the school. But, no matter how many programs there are, there never seem to be enough to cover eveyone's needs.

On any given day, it is not uncommon for 50 or more students to be out of the building for disciplinary reasons: a combination of suspensions and disciplinary removals.

While students like Tyrone Patterson and Student Government President Michael Coates "Mfume" are successfully completing twelfth grade and plan to go on to college, their success is closer to the exception than the rule, not only at Southwestern, but most city high schools. Half of the school's population is comprised of ninth graders, but the numbers get increasingly smaller with each subsequent grade level. The ninth grade has more than 700 class members, but the senior class has only 130 students.

"These numbers are misleading," Mr. Stanley said "Not all would - be seniors are dropping out. Many of them are in other classes. We have high expectations of our students," he said. "We don't promote them until they have satisfactorily completed all the requirements of an academic curriculum."

Some teachers criticize Stanley for his stern views and policies, but his theories on education have been known to work in some cases. Tyrone Patterson is a Stanley success story. After failing the ninth grade, Stanley took Tyrone under his wing. Now Tyrone is taking enriched curriculum courses and is a student commissioner to the school board.

Still, Stanley's methods are questioned. A group of Southwestern teachers took their grievances about Stanley and his administration to the Baltimore Teacher's Union (BTU) last week.

Stanley believes that all students can learn any subject given adequate teaching and materials. Wilhelmina Vaughn is a math teacher at Southwestern whose views sometimes crash head-on with Stanley's.

"I have students in my Algebra II class who have not passed the Maryland Functional Reading Test," Vaughn said. In facing the challenge of trying to teach math to remedial math students, she has also been stunted by insufficient text books, and rules that say a student fails automatically if he is absent 10 times. She tries to overcome these obstacles by holding coach class after school, only to find that no one shows up.

"You can't define what people can learn," Stanley said. "With class time, study time, and coach class, anybody can learn Algebra unless there is some kind of brain damage. There is nothing exotic about the Maryland Functional Math test. You can teach kids those basics and Algebra, too."

Along with carrying on everyday activities, Southwestern is unique because it does have another school utilizing it's building, adding an additional 1,000 to Southwestern's already large number of 1,270 students. Southwestern's staff alone has 99 members. With the addition of Walbrook's, there are approximately 200 staff members in the building.

Additional classrooms and lockers have recently been added, but no additional security has been added. There are only two school police monitoring the school building daily. But, to ease the burden, students have been joining forces, holding meetings, and offering viable suggestions to hault future violence.

"These kids understand what we're up against," Stanley said. "To my surprise the majority of them voted in a recent school safety meeting to have uniforms," he said.

"The most important thing is that they've got to come prepared to work," Stanley said. "Until they do, we're playing school, not having school."

The 2:30 bell rang. A signal for all Southwestern students to end the day. Buses wait outside as 1,200 kids once again trample the grass and crowd the pavement in a mad dash to get out of the building and down the hill. Back to the life in the city. Within minutes, all is quiet in front of the plain, brown building.

FROM THE OLD SCHOOL — Math Teacher, Ernestine Vaughn demands her students' attention in the classroom.

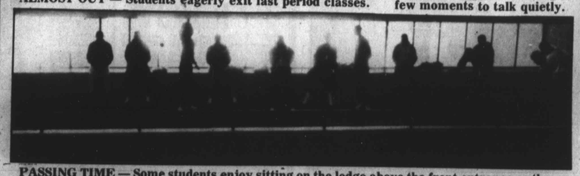
BELT THE BEAN BALL—Class 909 competes in the gym.

Afro Photos by Paris Gray

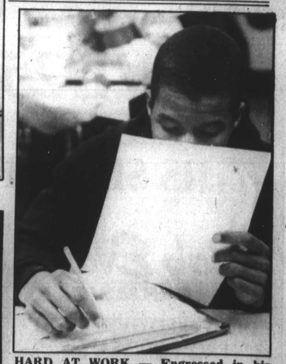
ARE WE KEEPING YOU UP? — One student rests his face in the palm of his hand as he snoozes during class.

ALMOST OUT — Students eagerly exit last period classes.

PRIVATE TIME — Taking a few moments to talk quietly.



PASSING TIME — Some students enjoy sitting on the ledge above the front entrance so they can see what's going on.



HARD AT WORK — Engrossed in his classwork, proves that education is not wasted on the young.