THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

GIANT
THE QUALITY FOOD PEOPLE

PLUS DOUBLE COUPONS... see store for details Please, No Coupon Clubs

Mild, Hot or Low Salt
Esskay Sausage Meat
1-lb. pkg. 99¢

USDA Grade A Giant
Natural Young Turkeys
10 to 24 lbs. Frozen
lb. 69¢

Mash's Lower Salt, 19 to 23 lbs.
Fully Cooked Whole Hams
MASH'S
lb. 1.29

Assorted Flavors
Giant Ice Cream
In Handy Reusable Plastic Container
½-gal. cont. 1.99

California Sunkist (88 Size)
Navel Oranges
5 for 99¢

Burns Up To 3 Hours
Giant Firelog
5-lb. pkg. 1.39

We will close at 6pm
Christmas Eve
and remain closed
Christmas
Day.
Both our Food Store and Prescription Department will be open Monday, December 26, 9am to 7pm.

Sociables, Wheat Thins, Tricuits or Better Cheddars
Nabisco Snack Crackers
7 to 10-oz. box 1.19

Caffeine Free Pepsi, Caffeine Free Diet Pepsi,
Pepsi or Diet Pepsi
6-pack 16-oz. NR bots. 1.69

½ PRICE SPECIALS

Kraft
Parkay Spread
Reg. 1.99
99¢

Giant Extra Large
Pitted Ripe Olives
Reg. 1.79
89¢

Giant
Butter Added White Bread
Reg. 83¢
41¢

Vlasic
Sweet Gherkins
Reg. 1.99
99¢

Regular or Plus Disposable
Good News Razors
Reg. 2.39
1.19

PRICES & DOUBLE COUPONS EFFECTIVE THRU SAT., DEC. 24, 1988 in Giant stores in the city of Baltimore & Baltimore County. This merchandise is not offered for sale to other commercial enterprises.

BUSINESS PULSE

■ Career Corner C3
■ Sports C4

Private Eye Deborah Ramsey:

Crimebuster-Myth breaker

By Charles H. Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Let us say you are in trouble.

Perhaps you are the owner or manager of a business being ravaged by expensive employee pilfering. The insurance company is threatening to cancel you, the police are planning to investigate you and various regulating agencies are promising to audit you.

Who do you call?

"Ramsey and Son Private Detectives, we're looking out for you."

At the other end of the line will be a woman, about five-feet, four - inches; a crack shot, martial arts trained, Baltimore police department tested and undercover Drug Enforcement Agency proven.

If all of that does not make her special; the fact she is the only black woman in the state who has those credentials and the license to own and operate her own private detective agency and security firm should.

"I was interested in learning about some of the problems facing women private detectives and especially black women private detectives, so I went to the licensing bureau and asked them for a list of all of the other women detectives in the state," Ramsey recalled.

The list proved to be a short one. Not counting Ramsey there were only three other women so licensed by the state of Maryland.

"Three," Ramsey asked in amazement. "How many of them are black?"

The reply: "When you look in the mirror, she's it"

"Before that it was something I wanted to do," Ramsey said. "After that I felt like I had an obligation."

Obligation Day for Ramsey fell on December 2. As of that day she was in the history books, she was on the record, she was off and running in a crowded field of one.

"This is an area that is very lucrative," Ramsey explained. "It's competitive, but there is enough crime out there for everybody."

Crime enough for the nation's private industries weighs in at a staggering $40 billion annually. An area where local police are limited in their effectiveness, is by definition an area of opportunity for civic and profit minded entrepreneurs.

"We both serve the community," Ramsey said. "You just can't isolate one group and say let them handle it. We pretty much work hand in hand."

Deborah Ramsey

As a six-year veteran of the Baltimore City Police Department, working hand in hand with the police is nothing new to Ramsey.

A two-year stint in the Southwestern precinct taught her the rule and thumb of department procedures.

An additional two year stint with the Criminal Investigation Division as an undercover narcotics officer taught her the value of depending on her back-up and a particularly touchy incident taught her the value of depending on her instincts. These two incidents are related.

In the summer of 1984, Ramsey was taken by a paid informant to meet with an alleged drug dealer. As Ramsey was escorted to an upstairs meeting room she noticed the narrowness of the stairway and the fact that should anything happen there was no shelter until you reached the bottom, by which time it might be too late.

"I had an uneasy feeling about it," Ramsey later told her back-up.

After discussing the business at hand Ramsey and the informant again made their way through the constricting stairway after which Ramsey told her informant, "...if he wants to meet with us again he is going to have to come downstairs, because we're not going up that stairway again."

Once outside the Southwest Baltimore building Ramsey walked to a waiting unmarked car and climbed in.

"What happened," came the question from one of her back-up officers? "We couldn't hear you transmitting at all from in there.

For some unknown reason Ramsey's wireless microphone had malfunctioned effectively cutting her lifeline to the outside world.

Two weeks later a fellow undercover officer, on an unrelated case, climbed the same stairway, lost contact with his back-up and was killed.

Deborah Ramsey, the second of five children, never told her family about the danger involved in the work she did. They knew she was an undercover police officer, but when they would ask her what kind of cases she worked on she would supply only vague, non-committal answers.

Born in Baltimore, she said her family moved to Roxboro, N.C. after her father suffered a layoff from the Bethlehem Steel Mills. Ramsey was seven-years-old.

Roxboro, a small town just a slopbuckets toss from Durham, was a different world to the family. They went from the middle class life of a Baltimore laborer's family, to labor of a family farm.

"I thought my parents were trying to kill me," Ramsey said, reminiscing about the long days spent in the tobacco fields of Roxboro. "I felt like 'Tobacco Road' ran right through my house."

After growing up it was time to make a personal decision as to where to live. Baltimore or Roxboro. Maryland or North Carolina. South or further south.

"I tried to remember who seemed to be happier," Ramsey reasoned. "It seemed like up here they were having a party."

The decision made Ramsey return to Baltimore where she later married and had a son,— the "Son" of Ramsey and Son.

"That sounded better than Deborah Ramsey-Private Detective," Ramsey said. It added a masculine tone to the agency, "almost like Remington Steele,"Ramsey added.

The marriage later ended and the team of Ramsey and Son was begun in earnest.

Seeking steady employment in order to raise her son, Ramsey applied to the Baltimore City Police and was accepted into the academy at the age of 31.

"The most exciting part was trying to keep up with those young recruits," Ramsey said. "I remember running across rooftops one day and thinking, 'I would rather jump off this roof than to continue running'."

But Ramsey did continue running and the rest is literally history.

Sitting across the desk from Deborah Ramsey it becomes immediately obvious she could charm a pair of shoes off of the back of an alligator. Then it suddenly dawns on you this is her job. Is she even undercover? Assuming an identity? Playing a role?

"I never have to play roles," Ramsey explained when asked about it. "I've always been able to be myself and get the job done. It depends on how you approach people. As a police officer I never had to draw my stick.," she said. "I've had people help me handcuff them."

Ramsey walks outside to her late model white on white 760 Volvo in contrast to all the myths and stereotypes of pug-nosed, beer-bellied, bourbon breath ex-cops who are long on dialogue and short on the social graces.

She owns a trenchcoat, a pink trenchcoat, but she would not be caught dead in it. She has access to a Sherlock Homes hat but will not wear it and she does not own a magnifying glass.

"I have enough myths to deal with as it is," Ramsey said.

Otis Warren

Warren elected Director of National Realtors

Otis Warren, Jr., a member of the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors, has been elected a director at large of the National Association of Realtors, the nation's largest trade association.

Warren, who is a former president of the local board and also active with the Maryland Association of Realtors, will serve a three-year term on the board of directors, responsible for governing the National Association of Realtors.

Warren is owner of Otis Warren Real Estate Service, a Baltimore real estate firm specializing in residential and commercial sales, property management, appraisal and development. He serves on the board of directors of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Maxima gains $million contract for services

The Maxima Corporation has been awarded a $1.6 million, five-year contract to operate the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service for the U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWRS).

Joshua I. Smith

Under this contract, Maxima will maintain the FWRS computer system, collect and process materials for the database; produce a quarterly newsletter; and provide copies of documents to requestors. Maxima will also be responsible for publicizing the FWRS publications in information collection through marketing vehicles such as newsletters, fact sheets and demonstrations at seminars and conferences.

Last year the company was awarded a $15 million contract from Prince George's County, to manage the county's central data processing facilities.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Al Maddox, Jr. of Times Printers, a general commercial printing company, was recently honored by the American Lung Association of Maryland (ALAM) for his company's outstanding efforts in helping the ALAM "provide a service it might otherwise be unable to provide in the fight against lung disease." The award was presented by James L. Baer, president of the Board of Directors of the American Lung Association of Maryland, the Christmas Seal People® .

Women-owned Businesses at Record High

WASHINGTON, DC — The number of women-owned businesses continues its long-term growth, according to new government figures.

The Internal Revenue Service recently published 1986 figures for women-owned sole proprietorships. Between 1980 and 1986 the number of women-owned sole proprietorships grew from 2.5 to 4.1 million, an increase of 64 percent. During the same period, business receipts doubled from $36 to $72 billion.

James Abdnor, Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA), in commenting on the new figures, said, "Women-owned businesses are currently the fastest growing segment of the economy and I believe that what we are seeing today is just the beginning. As these businesses mature, their share of the market and of total sales is also expected to increase."

Minority Scholarships Available

Up to 10 full-tuition scholarships will be awarded to talented college-bound black high school students next year through the John B. Ervin Scholarships for Black Americans at Washington University in St. Louis.

Deadline to apply is January 15. Application forms and a brochure may be obtained by writing to: James E. McLeod, chairman, Ervin Scholarship Committee, Campus Box 1089, Washington University, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130. Or call 1-800-638-0700. Persons within Missouri should call 1-800-582-0700.

Under the program, up to 10 black freshmen will receive renewable scholarships of full tuition, plus an annual stipend of $2,500 for four years of undergraduate study at Washington University.

Washington University established this merit-based program in honor of John B. Ervin, a nationally recognized black educator and former dean of the university's School of Continuing Education and Summer School.

Although the scholarships are awarded on a merit basis, the university will provide further support to recipients who demonstrate additional financial need. The scholarships are renewable each year, provided the students maintain a satisfactory academic record.

To apply for the scholarships, students must: apply for freshman admission to Washington University; submit an Ervin Scholars application; submit two letters of recommendation; and write an original essay.