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Next Issue  
December 12

# The InTowner

Since 1968 • Serving Washington D.C.'s Intown Neighborhoods

## P Street Liquor Store Owner Charges Police Indifference to Hold-Ups

By Terry Lane

Amare Lucas, owner of Best-In Liquors near Logan Circle, believes he knows why crime is rising in Washington. After three consecutive days of being terrorized by a group of youths, he blames police inaction for making the situation worse.

"I'm as mad at the police as I am with those kids," he said.



photo—Terry Lane—The InTowner

Owner Amare Lucas talks with our reporter.

Lucas said police had an opportunity to arrest the youths who blatantly stole liquor from his store and intimidated him, but instead delayed.

For three consecutive days, a group of teenaged boys came into his store, physically intimidated him and removed bottles from his shelves, Lucas told *The InTowner*. Police were slow to arrive, and when they did arrive, Lucas said, they put little effort into finding or arresting the perpetrators—even after he had pointed them out to officers.

According to Lucas, on the morning of October 27 three males who obviously weren't 21-years-old—two were short and appeared to be about 13 or 14—came into his store, an up-scale establishment located next door to Whole Foods Market, at 1450 P Street. An older one was about six feet tall and appeared to be their "leader," Lucas said.

When Lucas confronted the three, the oldest one stated he was there to buy liquor. Lucas said he asked for identifica-

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## 3 Days Around DC by the Mayor End with Kudos for The Phillips Collection

By Anthony L. Harvey

Mayor sightings of Washington's peripatetic Mayor Anthony Williams for community newspaper reporters during the middle of the last month of October ranged from a roundtable press briefing in the ornate ceremonial conference room of the mayor's 7th floor Wilson Building office suite to an outdoor press event in the front yard of The Phillips Collection's Goh Annex building for a "ground-breaking" two days later.



photo—courtesy, The Phillips Collection

With the Goh Annex façade already removed, preparatory to extending the building several feet out, the ceremonial groundbreaking by (l-r) Dupont Circle ANC Chair Vince Micone, Mayor Williams and Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans got underway.

The October 14th roundtable featured a discussion by Mayor Williams of his Citizen Summit III where he and his staff say they would provide real challenges and real choices for those citizens attending its all-day, November 1 session (since rescheduled to November 15 due to the conflicting funeral service for former Mayor Walter Washington). This "Citizen Summit," which is being structured as a huge town hall meeting, will be held at the new Washington Convention Center. Mayor Williams insisted to a somewhat skeptical gathering of reporters that the expressed wishes of ordinary citizens would have real impact on city planning and that citizen concerns and stated priorities articulated at this event would be specifically incorporated into a revision of the District's comprehensive plan for city-wide development. This new version of the comprehensive plan, the mayor added, would rank third in importance to only two previous plans for the District—L'Enfant's original urban design for Washington as the capital city and the Congressionally mandated McMillan Commission's plan developed 100 years later.

Other questions at the round table included the status of the city's Congressional appropriation, the reports of citizen meetings regarding crime and the redeployment of metropolitan police officers into PSAs corresponding to neighborhood planning areas. Questions regarding affordable housing and "gentrification," always hot topics when DC politicians are questioned by community newspaper reporters, were mostly not responded to, especially those with any reference to the mayor's scheduled appearance the

Cont., WILLIAMS, p. 21

## T Street House Collapse Caused by Improper Foundation Work at Adjoining Construction Site



photo—Bill Barker

As the above photo dramatically shows, improper underpinning and shoring of a party wall during construction on an adjacent lot can result in disaster.

Seen here is the October 17, 2003 result of such a failure by the builders who were excavating at 813 T Street in preparation for the start of construction of a new, two-unit condominium duplex. Although a construction permit had been issued two

weeks prior, on October 2, it appears that no steps were taken to underpin and shore up the party wall shared with the neighboring house at 815 T Street. Since the excavation was dug below the party wall footings, underpinning by pouring new footings would have been required.

—P.L. Wolff



photo—Bill Barker

The *InTowner* has confirmed that an inspector from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs' Building and Land Inspection Division was called to the site on October 17 and entered the notation of "Disapproval" in the file. While work has been halted, it cannot be confirmed that this is because of the issuance of a Stop-Work order—

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## From the Publisher's Desk...

By P.L. Wolff

### CITY'S ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAW NEEDS REFORM

We weigh in on the side of reforming the city's ABC law, but not for the same reasons that many civic association activists would care to discuss. But before we state our substantive position on this matter, we wish to make one thing clear:

Contrary to the view of some seriously misinformed persons here and there around town, we are not the handmaidens of the booze industry. Yes, we enjoy a cocktail now and then, maybe even a couple of glasses of wine or a few beers on a lazy summer afternoon, but then so do the silent majority of this city.

We are not thrilled about the idea of wild nightclubs spilling drunken idiots onto the streets, nor are we happy to see boozers staggering around certain neighborhoods. But—and this is important to keep in mind—the city already has ample laws and regulations on the books to deal with these problems. Disorderly conduct and the noise ordinance come to mind. If only the police would actually enforce these laws we probably wouldn't have neighborhood activists on the warpath to the extent that they are. The answer, then, is not to attempt to shut out more ABC-licensed establishments but to get the city law enforcement officers to actually do their jobs.

Having stated the above, now let us get to the heart of the problem as we see it. In an attempt by citizens to solve problems that, as we noted, can and should be solved through existing laws already on the books, they would have the city council impose yet even more draconian restrictions on restaurants, cafes, bars and clubs than already exist. They believe, for example, that music of any kind—even poetry readings (at least in one neighborhood) and other kinds of artistic and cultural expression must be totally squashed in the belief that such activities when presented where people may be enjoying cocktails, wine and beer somehow will lead to the destruction of their communities.

If the city council really buys into that position then the council will be taking the incredibly irresponsible step of holding up the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech and expression as a bad thing for society—completely contrary to all that we believe.

Even now, with the law's mechanism providing for so-called "voluntary agreements"—which are neither voluntary nor true agreements by any stretch of the imagination—and the ABC Board's encouragement for these and its apparent lack of concern for true fact-finding, we have reached the point where one has to be seriously concerned about the willingness of both our elected and appointed officials and of our neighbors in treating the fundamental guarantees of the Constitution with such disdain.

Yes, it is true, we can have a more orderly society, including less street noise (which seems to be a strange agenda to follow in the downtown of a major city), less incidental trash strewn about, and so forth if we can do away with the kinds of activities guaranteed by the First Amendment. That might be fine for citizens of some countries, but we have been under the impression ever since first grade that this is not what America stands for. Why must the capital city of the Free World attempt to re-create the ways of Beijing during the days of Mao?

There are those who say that the 21st Amendment, which repealed the stupidity of Prohibition (haven't we learned from that idiocy?), somehow "pre-empts" the First Amendment. That is sheer nonsense, and there is no judicial authority to support such a contention. In fact, just recently an attorney in New England won an important case upholding the protection for the playing of music in ABC-licensed establishments. The fact is, the 21st Amendment is restricted to the matter of the manufacture and distribution of alcohol, not the manufacture and distribution of music or literature. To suggest otherwise is sheer nonsense, and the city council must take steps to reign in an ANC board that has helped to perpetuate this myth of 21st Amendment primacy over the Bill of Rights.

So, not only for the reasons stated above must the ABC law be reformed to either do away with or substantially modify the "voluntary agreement" business, but also for the reason that by the very nature by which these so-called agreements are imposed there is a complete denial of due process and equal protection accorded to the businesspeople who feel compelled to sign. That there can be provisions in the ABC law that gives rise to consistent, DC government-encouraged tearing down of the provisions of the Constitution's Due Process and Equal Protection clauses is a travesty. This situation cries out for correction. □

▶ **NEXT ISSUE—DECEMBER 12** ◀  
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## LETTERS

Letters must be mailed, faxed, or delivered to our office or sent via e-mail to: letters@intowner.com. All correspondents MUST supply a home address AND both day and evening telephone numbers for verification purposes. Persons employed by or volunteering with entities that are the subject of their letters MUST reveal their positions with same so as to avoid misleading the readers as to their special interest. In appropriate instances, if so requested, letters may be printed on a "name withheld by request" basis. We reserve the right to edit for propriety, clarity, and to fit the available space. Identifiers below writers' names are inserted at the editor's discretion.

**Special Note: Only envelopes from government agencies, recognized civic groups and other organizations, or mail from individuals in envelopes bearing verifiable return addresses that include sender's full name will be opened; any other postal or hand-delivered mail will be either returned to sender or destroyed.**

### Health Care for the Poor May be Better Than Supposed

Your editorial in the October InTowner ["City's Poor & Vulnerable Still Getting a Raw Deal," page 3] has a number of misstatements in reference to the award of the new HIV/AIDS contract. Care Pharmacies is not a "group of independent pharmacies that operate under the umbrella of a cooperative of some kind." It is a 42-store pharmacy franchise system with stores in the District, Maryland and Virginia. In fact we have more stores in the city of Washington than any entity other than CVS. Many of our stores are minority owned and we have physical locations in all eight wards of the city. Further, we offer free delivery throughout the city for those patients needing this service.

We have been the ADAP provider since the inception of that program in the early '90s and all of our pharmacists have undergone the extensive training to properly participate. We continually present programs featuring some of the leading HIV practitioners in the area to our stores. We have been counseling the over 1,200 patients in the original ADAP program since day one as part of our contractual agreement.

As currently constituted, our network

includes the Whitman-Walker clinic pharmacy as well as Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights, Cathedral, Foers, and Morgan Pharmacies—all of which serve the area you consider underserved.

We at Care are proud to have been selected for this very important responsibility and assure all of the participants in this program that all of their needs will be attended to. I hope this response will clear up the misinformation that appears to be circulating throughout the community

Gerry T. Serody  
 CEO and Board Chairman,  
 CARE Pharmacies, Inc.  
 Arlington, Virginia

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Almost three years after the closing of the Adams Morgan Clinic, Community of Hope, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization, has relocated its health clinic from Columbia Heights to Adams Morgan, in the Marie Reed Community Learning Center at 2250 Champlain Street, NW. The clinic offers primary care services, including health education, preventative,

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## TheInTowner.

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## Reform of the Laws Regulating Restaurants, Bars and Clubs Is Imperative Because Such Establishments Are Essential to the Social, Cultural and Economic Vitality of Our City

### 1. There Must Be Substantive Limits on "Voluntary Agreements" to Protect Cultural, Musical and First Amendment-Protected Activities.

The use of "voluntary agreements" to infringe on the traditional role of restaurants, bars and clubs as venues for music and cultural and social expression is constitutionally unsound – on First Amendment, Due Process and Equal Protection grounds – and insupportable as a matter of policy. Restrictions on such activities, including live music, deejays, dancing, comedy theatre and other performances, should not be permissible in "voluntary agreements." Restrictions on such activities should be available only through constitutionally valid procedures and only to the extent constitutionally permissible. A constitutionally valid approach is contained in the proposed Live Music and Entertainment Protection Act.

### 2. There Must Be Substantive Limits on "Voluntary Agreements" to Prevent De Facto Repeal of Basic Statutory Parameters and Improper Intrusion on the Rights of Licensees and Patrons.

"Voluntary agreements" should not be used to alter the basic statutory parameters of licensure as a restaurant, bar or club. Nor should they be permitted to interfere with the basic choices available to the business owner or undermine the economic value of the business or the license. "Voluntary agreements" should not be available to impose restrictions on hours of operation; to impose occupancy limits; to limit the sale or transfer of the business or the license; to prevent the licensee from charging a cover charge; or to restrict the licensee's right to advertise in any legally permissible manner.

### 3. All Stakeholders Must Be Granted Standing to Participate Fully and Equally in All Licensing Matters.

A fundamental law in the "voluntary agreement" process as it now stands is that all stakeholders are not represented – in particular, proponents of the license and the users under that license are excluded from the "voluntary agreement" process, because only opponents have standing. This is an obvious Equal Protection and Due Process defect that must be rectified. Likewise, proponents cannot be parties in contested cases before the Board. Yet proponents clearly have as much a cognizable interest as opponents, and should be on an equal footing.

### 4. A Balancing Test that Affirmatively Recognizes the Contribution of Licensed Establishments to the Cultural and Economic Vitality of the City Must Be Reincorporated into the Law.

As originally enacted in 1986, the law contained a balancing test that specifically instructed the ABC Board to consider the establishment's contribution to the "cultural vitality" and "economic vitality" of the city when conducting proceedings on granting, revoking or placing conditions on licensure. One of the main intentions behind such language was to recognize, preserve and protect the role of licensed establishments as venues for musical, cultural and social expression and to recognize and support the role of such establishments as engines of economic growth and employment opportunities. The balancing test was later removed under pressure from extremist groups, leaving the Board disabled from considering the positive contributions of an establishment to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the city. This makes it impossible for a licensee in a contested case to argue the true value of what the licensee is offering or proposing to offer. It also has contributed to the unprecedented attack on music, entertainment and dancing that has become a hallmark feature of the current situation. An enlightened licensing system for restaurants, bars and clubs must contain a well thought out and comprehensive balancing test that gives due deference to the extraordinary cultural, social and economic value of such establishments. There is no conceivable rationale for the absence of such a balancing test in current law.

### 5. There Should Be No Preemptive Limits by Board Action on the Ability of New Licensees to Offer Music, Entertainment and Dancing; to Charge Cover Charges; to Advertise; and to Maintain Statutory Operating Hours.

As a general proposition, new licensees should be entitled to a presumption that they can and will responsibly enjoy all the statutory privileges of licensure and that their potential patrons are entitled to enjoy what the licensee wishes to offer within the parameters of the law. A prior interference with those privileges via "voluntary agreements" would be circumscribed under Principles 1 and 2 above. In the case of new licensees, there are certain basic statutory parameters that should not be subject to preemptive limits, even by action of the ABC Board. In particular, the ability to offer music, entertainment and dancing, to charge cover charges, to advertise and to maintain statutory operating hours should be considered intrinsic to any new license. Any limitations later imposed should be only by action of the Board, upon full hearing, with all stakeholders able to participate; based on documented problems of significant seriousness and duration; and with any curative restrictions narrowly tailored to address such documented problems. In order to be valid, and appropriate as a matter of public policy, restrictions must always be predicated on real problems, compelling evidence and fair process.

### 6. Repeat the "Section 14(e) Petition" or "Referendum."

The Section 14(e) petition or referendum is a process that only opponents may invoke in order to stop a new license application or a license transfer to a different location. The main use of it has been as a threat to create leverage to extract "voluntary agreements." When actually put into use, it is profoundly anti-democratic – arbitrarily granting a minuscule subset of the populace a life or death power over a matter of public policy; incredibly divisive; and horrifically expensive, both for the licensee and for the city which has to conduct and supervise a mini "election." It actually subverts the orderly processes of governmental regulation and policymaking. The device is widely conceded to be bad public policy and there is no purpose in further delaying its repeal.

### 7. Prohibit or Limit the Availability of Moratoriums on C and D Licenses.

License Classes C and D denote restaurants, bars and clubs. Given the extraordinary importance of restaurants, bars and clubs as venues for music and culture, as the prime locus of social interaction, and as forces for economic growth and repopulation of the city, there should not be moratoriums on such uses. Moratoriums distort the market, encourage poor use of precious commercial space, do not encourage positive diversity of uses, and do not constitute a viable method of urban planning. The fear of lack of diversity of uses should be addressed by mechanisms for incentivizing uses thought lacking, not by prohibition of uses that the market clearly supports and which most people appreciate as the core of an exciting and rewarding urban life. Moratoriums do not serve the city at large, they only serve the interests of those small factions who seek them. If they are to be permitted at all, they must only be permitted if justified by clear and convincing evidence with the burden of proof on the proponents; must be available only in the most exigent circumstances; must be subject to a balancing test that recognizes the contribution of C and D establishments to the cultural, economic and social vitality of the city; and, because of their distorting, unpredictable and potentially irreversible effects, must be limited in duration to no more than two years, and be not renewable again for at least two years after expiration.

### 8. There Should Be a Full-Time, Professional ABC Board and Mandatory Time Frames for the Hearing and Disposition of All Matters Before It.

Everyone agrees that the work of the ABC Board is of major public importance. Because Board membership is not a full-time paid position, the ability to attract the best candidates is impaired, the workload far exceeds capacity and the resolution of cases can be so protracted as to undermine the rights of all concerned. The District of Columbia needs and deserves a full-time, professional ABC Board. It should be composed of highly qualified individuals representing an array of relevant backgrounds and disciplines. Its composition should be reflective of a spectrum of interests and expertise, and should at minimum include expertise in legal and constitutional issues, urban economic development, civil rights and minority affairs, and arts and cultural advocacy. The creation of such a full-time Board would then make it possible to realize the goal of fair and timely resolution of all matters in accordance with mandatory statutory time frames for the hearing, consideration and disposition of all matters that come before the Board. A qualified, professional, full-time Board is long overdue and will be in the interest of all stakeholders and all affected parties.

*Paid for by The District of Columbia Quality of Life Coalition*

## AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The editor welcomes the receipt of information about community happenings, such as church-sponsored events, neighborhood and block association activities, public meetings dealing with neighborhood issues, and other events of a non-commercial nature. These may be emailed to us at newsroom@intowner.com, or sent by regular mail but not by fax.

Because we are a neighborhood newspaper and not a city-wide or regional publication, we restrict our reporting to that about news and activities occurring within the specific neighborhoods we serve—Adams Morgan, Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights; Dupont, Scott, Thomas & Logan Circles; Mt. Vernon Square/Pennsylvania Quarter, Shaw, U Street.

**Special Note:** Emails received bearing no substantive entry in the Subject field will not be downloaded for reasons of virus protection security. Neither will we open anonymous Postal Service-received mail. Only envelopes from government agencies, recognized civic groups and other organizations, or mail from individuals in envelopes bearing verifiable return addresses that include sender's full name will be opened; any other postal or hand-delivered mail will be either returned to sender or destroyed.

Notices of selected events received after the first Friday of the month deadline may be included during the ensuing publication period in this Community News section of our website, <http://www.intowner.com>—be sure to visit it during the ensuing weeks.

• Mon., Nov. 17 (6:15pm): Project Northstar, which offers one-on-one tutoring for children in DC who are living in homeless shelters, transitional housing, and/or foster care, will be conducting an ORIENTATION for new tutors at the **Josephine Butler Parks Center** (2437-15th St., across from Meridian Hill Park). The organization is still seeking tutors and mentors for the current school year to volunteer in Columbia Heights, Petworth, LeDroit Park, and on Capitol Hill. Training and resources are provided, and no previous tutoring experience is required. Adults who are interested in helping to make a difference in the life of a child are encouraged to call 223-0144 or visit [www.projectnorthstar.org](http://www.projectnorthstar.org). Orientations are conducted regularly and so for those who can't attend now, a call to Northstar will be the thing to do.

• Mon., Nov. 17 (6:30pm): While we normally do not report on community meetings outside of the neighborhoods specifically covered by this newspaper, because we did not have information in time for last month's issue about a very important meeting that was held at the Watha Daniels Library branch in Shaw, we have made an exception so that concerned residents will have an opportunity to weigh in on the "Citizens' Role in Clearing DC's Waterways." This is the topic title for the PUBLIC MEETING being sponsored by the **DC Water and Sewer Authority** (WASA), to be held on Capitol Hill at the

Northeast Branch Library (330-7th St. NE).

This environmental education meeting, to be presided over by WASA's Chief Engineer and Deputy General Manager, Michael S. Marcotte, and is part of the agency's announced on-going efforts to reduce the impact of general waste and debris in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. According to WASA, which is encouraging residents to be environmentally responsible and eliminate waste disposal flowing into the rivers, an estimated 50 to 60 percent of the floatable debris in the rivers is there as a result of personal waste.

• Mon, Nov. 17 (7pm): The **Adams Morgan Main Street Group** will hold a PUBLIC BRIEFING about its Main Street Program at the Adams Inn (1744 Lanier Pl.) to describe its public-private partnership in which the residents and businesses are to work together to improve the neighborhood's commercial streets. Learn about committees on organization, design, transportation, economic diversification, and promotion. Discuss ideas, ask questions, and partake of cookies & tea. For more info, call the group's president, Lisa Duperier at 667-1052.

• Tue., Nov. 18: This is the final day to be able to drop in and view the "Showers of Stoles," EXHIBIT at the **Dupont Pilgrims Gallery** (Church of the Pilgrims, 22nd & P Sts.). The exhibit features selections from a

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## Annual Logan Circle House Tour December 8

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7 when, between 1 and 5 p.m., the Logan Circle Community Association (LCCA) will present its 25th annual Holiday House Tour, this year to feature nine beautifully decorated homes in one of our outstanding historic district neighborhoods.

From stately, antique-filled Victorian town houses to contemporary interiors, the houses open for the tour are clustered near the Circle itself. Tour-goers will be able to sample a representative range of single-family homes, as are found on the broad avenues to the cozier period houses that were constructed for the city's middle classes in the 1880s.

Among those featured this year will be the grand, former home of the city's first African-American woman dentist, who practiced here until 1961—with its five original fireplaces, three-story staircase boasting nine heavy newel posts, and the five sets of pocket doors, all in cherry and all restored. Another house showcases the art collection of a globe-trotting banker/diplomat, which includes pieces from now world-renowned artists from Haiti, Latvia, Brazil, Costa Rica, and the Near East.

As is the event's tradition, the tour concludes with a Wassail—something warm to drink if the day is cold and some cookies—at the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church on Vermont Avenue, between Logan and Thomas Circles.

Tickets will be available on the day of the tour for \$20 at 1324 Vermont Avenue, a short half-block south of the circle.

Advance tickets may also be purchased for \$15 at Barrel House Liquors (1341-14th St.), Home Rule (1807-14th St.), Ruff & Ready Furnishings (1908-14th St.), and on the remaining Sundays of November at the Dupont Farmers' Market (20th St., bet. Mass. Ave. & QW St.). They may also be obtained by mail. Simply send a check, payable to Logan Circle Community Association, to house tour chair Connie Maffin at 1324 Vermont Avenue, NW, WDC 20009. For more info, call 483-7965. □

## COMMUNITY

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collection of hundreds of liturgical stoles from gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons of faith from all over North America. This inter-denominational exhibit celebrates the gifts of GLBT persons who serve their church communities in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. For hours and additional info, call 387.6612 or visit [www.churchofthepilgrims.org](http://www.churchofthepilgrims.org).

- Tue., Nov. 18 (6:30pm): The Phillips Collection is sponsoring what ought to be a fascination LECTURE on the famous Spanish artist Goya by controversial art critic Robert Hughes, who has just had published an important biography now on the best-seller list in Britain. To be held at GWU's **Lisner Auditorium** (21st & H Sts.), Hughes will expound on the artist he declares to be "the last Old Master and the first Modernist." He will also be available for a book signing following his lecture. Newsweek's art critic has said of Hughes that he "reigns over American art criticism like Shaquille O'Neal over a junior varsity." Tickets, \$15 (\$10 students & Phillips Collection members), available from TicketMaster outlets (tel., 202-432-SEAT; web, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)) or from the Lisner box office between 11 am and 5 pm, Tue.-Fri. (cash and checks only).

- Tue., Nov. 18 (7:30-9pm): The **Southern Columbia Heights Neighborhood Association** is inviting residents and neighbors to learn more about their recently established organization at a MEETING to be held at the Boys and Girls Club (2500 14th St., bet Chapin & Clifton Sts.) The geographic boundaries of "SoCo Heights"



photo—Kevin Beaufort, store manager

### Halloween at 17th and Corcoran

Once again, long-time Corcoran Street Safeway store employee Grace Wilkins organized an amazing morning party for the neighborhood's little school children.

are Florida Avenue on the south, 16th Street on the west, the north side of Kenyon Street on the north, and Sherman Ave on the east. Come listen to guest speakers, talk to police officials, learn more about the various committees, talk to your neighbors and share your opinion.

- Thu., Nov. 20 (all day): Take a moment out of a busy day to contemplate that this will be **The InTowner** publisher's BIRTHDAY!

- Sat., Nov. 22 (12noon-7pm): Another good excuse to wander over to the burgeoning, historic Mt. Vernon Square neighborhood, now home to the City Museum, is to take in a **Bali Holiday ARTS AND CRAFTS** event at 1124-5th Street—one of the loveliest blocks around. Celebrate Balinese culture, view films of Bali and

browse among the unique handmade Balinese crafts, art and textiles which will be for sale, while at the same time enjoying some wine and cheese. For more info, call 489-5114.

- Sat., Nov. 22 (7-10pm): The **pass Painting and Sculpture Studio** 1617 S St.,

Rear—enter through alley between S & Swann Sts.), will be holding an OPENING RECEPTION for its "Group Show 2003." Featured will be work by terry a. debardeleben (a/k/a york), Bill Miller, Minna Newman Nathanson, Mark Planisek, Dan Randall, Jerome Spinner and Anthony Yannone. The show will continue through Dec. 20. Gallery hours: Tue. & Sat., 1-5pm & by appointment. For more info, call 745-0796.

- Sun., Nov. 23 (2:30pm): This will be the FINAL PERFORMANCE of *Closer Than Ever*, a musical review featuring the songs of Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire, being presented by **The Foundry Players** at Foundry United Methodist Church (16th & P Sts.). Maltby and Shire's 25 songs are about love and loss, family and friends, parents and children, spouses and lovers and other snapshots from the day-to-day human experience. This is the same talented team that has brought us the musical revue *Starting Here, Starting Now*. Remaining performances will be Fri. & Sat., Nov. 14 & 15 and 21 & 22 at 8 pm and Sun., Nov. 16 & 23 at 2:30 pm. Tickets, \$15 (\$12, seniors & students; \$5, children under 12). For more info, call 332-3454.

- Sat., Nov. 29 (3-5pm): Come meet Washington artist Bill Dorsey, view his

Cont., COMMUNITY, p. 22

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## Did You Know . . .

*Cleveland Park: Images of America*

By Paul Kelsey Williams & Kelton C. Higgins  
Arcadia Publishing, 128 pp, paper, \$19.99

Reviewed by Judy Hubbard Saul\*



photo—courtesy, Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division.

Members of the newly formed National Geographic Society pose at Twin Oaks, home of the society's founder and Cleveland Park resident Gardiner Green Hubbard. The house was built in 1888.

This new book, *Images of America: Cleveland Park*, by Paul K. Williams and Kelton C. Higgins, is a must-read for anyone interested in the fascinating local history of the nation's capital. Through mainly archival photographs, the *Images of America* series by the South Carolina publishing company Arcadia, documents what is unique about cities, towns, and neighborhoods across the United States. This is the seventh Washington, DC title in the series for Williams, principal of Kelsey and Associates, an architectural preservation firm, and the first Arcadia title for his collaborator, Higgins.

Williams and Higgins appropriately begin their photographic narrative well before President Grover Cleveland established his summer White House in the area and for whom the neighborhood is named. Included in the book is a drawing of the simple stone farmhouse President Cleveland bought in 1885, and a photograph of the house the following year after he "Victorianized" it. The book begins with photographs from the many grand estates, such as Rosedale, Woodley, and Klingle, which existed in the area in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Also included are photographs of people important to the area and to the country. People



Photo—courtesy, Kelsey & Associates, Inc.

estate. The authors document the early residential development along Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues and the important commercial development along the same corridors. Also included is a chapter on the many apartment buildings in the area.

What was particularly interesting to me was the inclusion of photographs beyond what we think of as Cleveland Park today: Peirce Mill, the area to the east; the old National Bureau of Standards buildings to the north; the Friendship estate, now McLean Gardens, to the west; and the National Cathedral under construction, to the south. Through historic photographs and informative captions and text, the history of Cleveland Park and its importance to the city and the country unfold in a very readable way. □

\*The writer, a 30-year resident of Newark Street in Cleveland Park, serves as the Cleveland Park Historical Society's Outreach Coordinator.



photo—courtesy, Kelsey & Associates, Inc.

## Neighborhood Children Get New Playground



Residents help put together a slide that will be attached to one of the jungle gyms.

More than 100 members of the Mt. Pleasant community came together on Saturday, November 8 to help build a playground at Bancroft Elementary School, located at the corner of Newton and 18th Streets. The playground, called "PlayStart," is to be a joint school-community facility for the neighborhood, said PlayStart organizer Iris Rothman. "I was shocked and thrilled by how many people showed up," she said. "We ran out of t-shirts to give volunteers." Rothman



Volunteers help construct a fire truck for the playground.



Photos—Terry Lane—The InTowner.

Claire Keller, 6, a student at Bancroft Elementary, and her sister Lillian, 2, are among the first to ride the toy motorcycle on the playground.

said the project would help bring together the middle-class community in the area and minority residents.

She also said that the organization raised \$10,000 through individual donations and fundraising. In addition, they raised \$30,000 from foundations, including the Washington Post foundation and the Washington Redskins' George Preston Marshall Foundation. Further, she added, Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham got the Parks Department to contribute \$25,000 to the project, and the school system donated \$10,000 in labor.

—Terry Lane

## LETTERS

From p. 3

adult, pre-natal, and pediatric care, as well as specialized services such as case management and HIV/AIDS care. Dental services will be phased in as funding becomes available. Community of Hope's services are an important link in the health care safety net for people who are uninsured, underinsured, and homeless in the District of Columbia.

Community of Hope was pleased to be featured in the District Weekly section of the *Washington Post* on September 11, 2003. In that article, one parent was quoted as having said, "I think the clinic, located here, will be of great benefit for the needy and for those who don't have legal documentation." That was Virginia Montoya, a native of El Salvador, whose two children graduated from Marie Reed and who now works at the school as a translator and office aide.

This clinic is the only full community clinic in an elementary school in the District of Columbia and represents a strong partnership with public schools. In the six weeks since the clinic opened, we

have already seen approximately 60 new patients, many of whom are uninsured, and have assisted in getting children immunized and scheduling physicals so that they can attend school. As Principal John Sparrow said, "This is a blessing." And, as quoted in the *Washington Post* article, "The whole idea is to extend health opportunities for children in our school system," according to Jennifer Ragins, the director of school health programs for DC public schools. "There are a lot of unmet needs of a lot of students. We want to capture those needs during the school hours, particularly for those children who are uninsured."

Many thanks to Josh Gibson, the ANC commissioner who worked tirelessly to help the clinic to re-open, and to Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham who played a critical role in getting the process to move forward.

If readers wish more information about programs and services, they are invited to call 232-9022 or visit [www.community-ofhopedc.org](http://www.community-ofhopedc.org).

Kelly Sweeney McShane  
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8	\$45,630

For households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,620 for each additional member. Guidelines are subject to change annually. Income eligibility must be certified by the DC Energy Office.

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**SELECTED STREET CRIMES: Reported, October 2 - November 6**

Following is a sampling of reported crimes in the 3rd Police District and the south end of the 4th District. Times shown are when reports recorded by police; actual incidents will have occurred earlier. Occasionally we include reports not recorded by the MPD. Emphasis here is placed, for the most part, on listing crimes against persons occurring in or adjacent to public space. Not generally reported are the extraordinary numbers of burglaries, auto heists, and "smash and grab" from parked cars. These crimes appear to be consistently a problem from Rock Creek eastward and from downtown north, spread fairly evenly throughout affluent, transitioning, and low-income neighborhoods. Also not reported, for reasons of space, are most of the numerous, random purse & other snatchings that can occur anywhere and at any hour.

- **Calif., 2100 blk.:** woman approached from behind by man who struck her on the head & while she was still in a daze grabbed her purse [3am, Sun., 10/19]
- **Church, 1400 blk.:** woman pedestrian grabbed 2 men who came from behind & as one spun her around the other grabbed her property [8pm, Tue., 10/7]
- **Church, 1500 blk.:** 3 men approached from behind by man on bicycle with gun who demanded, "Put everything down or I'll shoot you," & then robbed them [12mid, Mon., 10/13]
- **Clifton, 1400 blk.:** man grabbed from behind by 2 others who put a knife to his back & robbed him [7pm, Sun., 10/12]
- **Col. Rd., 1800 blk.:** Bank of America teller robbed by man claiming to have a gun [1pm, Thu., 10/30]
- **Corcoran, 1500 blk.:** man robbed at knifepoint by 2 others [9pm, Fri., 10/24]
- **Dupont Cir.:** man's backpack stolen by another while he was taking photos [5pm, Fri., 10/31]
- **Dupont Cir. & P:** man struck on back of head, knocked unconscious & robbed by unknown assailants [2am, Sat., 11/1]
- **Fla., 1800 blk.:** 2 persons driving toward 18th Street involved in altercation over traffic with another driver then accosted by that driver who pulled his vehicle alongside theirs, waved a machete at them & threatened, "This is what you're gonna eat if you say..." (remainder incomplete in MPD report) [1pm, Wed., 10/8]
- **Harvard, 1600 blk.:** man walking with another accosted by 2 others riding bicycles who demanded money & struck him when he said he had none [10pm, Tue., 11/4]
- **Hillyer, 2000 blk.:** man approached by another who demanded that he "come with me" which he did, whereupon he was punched in the mouth & knocked to the ground & robbed & threatened with knife [9pm, Tue., 10/7]
- **Irving, 1600 blk.:** man approached from behind by another with gun who demanded his money & robbed him of jewelry & \$5 cash [6pm, Tue., 10/7]
- **Kalorama, 1700 blk.:** man accosted as he walked to his car by man who lifted his shirt displaying gun & robbed [12mid, Mon., 10/20]
- **Kenyon, 1300 blk.:** man approached by 6 others demanding his money, whereupon he attempted to flee from them but was caught, punched & kicked in the body & face & then robbed [8pm, Tue., 10/7]
- **Mass., 2100 blk.:** person robbed by "force & violence" (no further details reported by MPD) [8pm, Mon., 10/6]
- **Monroe, 1000 blk.:** woman approached from behind by 2 men who grabbed her purse & pushed her to ground [10am, Thu., 10/9]
- **N, 2100 blk.:** person assaulted with deadly weapon (no further details reported by MPD) [1am, Mon., 10/6]
- **N, 2100 blk.:** man accosted at knifepoint by another who pulled him into an adjoining driveway & robbed him [11pm, Mon., 10/20]
- **Newton, 1700 blk.:** man walking home pelted with rocks from behind by 4 other men [5pm, Sat., 10/25]
- **O, 1000 blk.:** man who had left corner store & was headed for his car was approached

by 2 others on bicycles & displaying gun who demanded, "Give it up motherf...er," & then robbed him [11am, Wed., 10/8]

- **P, 300 blk.:** girl walking home from school accosted by 2 other who punched her in face & after falling to ground was struck in the face with a stick by yet another [3pm, Wed., 10/15]
- **Perry, 900 blk. (alley):** man who was nearly struck by vehicle then accosted by driver who stopped, got out & demanded, [expletive] get out of the way," whereupon he struck the other in the head with a hammer causing him to fall to ground & then drove off [9am, Sun., 10/5]
- **Q, 1300 blk.:** woman's purse grabbed by 2 men coming from the opposite direction as they passed her, causing her to fall to the ground & have her leg kicked in the ensuing struggle [10pm, Sun., 10/5]
- **S, 1200 blk. (alley):** man entering rear gate to his house approached from behind by man who pointed gun at his head & robbed him of wallet & keys [10pm, Sun., 10/12]
- **Swann, 1400 blk.:** man accosted & robbed by 2 others, one of whom held him in a head lock while the other went through his pockets [6pm, Sat., 10/4]
- **Swann, 1600 blk.:** 2 men waiting in apt. bldg. lobby approached by 3 others with guns who ordered them to lie down on floor as they robbed them of their wallets [10pm, Wed., 10/15]
- **W, 1100 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint by 2 others [9am, Tue., 11/4]
- **7th, 1800 blk.:** man approached by another who, without uttering a single word, pulled a knife and began stabbing him [12noon, Thu., 10/2]
- **10th, 2000 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint by 1 man while an accomplice was shouting instructions from across the street on how to carry out the robbery [11pm, Sun., 10/12]
- **11th, 1900 blk.:** woman robbed of purse at gunpoint by man who then demanded, "Don't look at me & count to 100" [10pm, Wed., 10/11]
- **12th, 2100 blk.:** man approached by 2 others, one of whom asked for cigarette & when told "No," they pointed an unknown object at him & demanded "everything you got," but got nothing because man started screaming & running away [11pm, Sun., 10/12]
- **13th & U:** Rite-Aid drugstore cashier robbed at gunpoint [8pm, Wed., 10/29]
- **13th, 3100 blk.:** woman approached from behind by man who grabbed her around neck, placed an unknown object against her neck & demanded her money "or I'll kill you" [6pm, Mon., 10/27]
- **14th & Fla.:** driver stopped at traffic light victim of carjacking when 2 others approached, opened driver's side door & forced him out of car [12mid, Wed., 10/8]
- **14th & P:** man's property snatched from him by another who then got into car driven by another [9am, Mon., 10/3]
- **14th, 1800 blk.:** woman approached by 2 men from rear who put a gun to her head, grabbed her purse & ordered to "run for it" [8pm, Sat., 10/11]
- **15th & P:** man stabbed in abdomen by another with scissors during argument over property in his cart [1pm, Thu., 10/2]
- **15th & S:** woman accosted by 3 men from behind, one of whom grabbed her around her throat, & robbed her [9pm, Mon./, 10/13]
- **16th & Fla.:** man approached by 3 others on bicycles, one of whom pulled a gun & shoved it in his stomach & robbed him [3am, Fri., 10/31]
- **17th, 3100 blk.:** 3 persons approached from behind, one of whom was punched in the head, fell to the ground while one of the robbers grabbed her purse & as she fought back, he slammed her head on the sidewalk & one of her companions punched in jaw when he attempted to help [2am, Sun., 10/26]
- **20th & Belmont:** woman approached from behind by man who demanded her money & when she refused, he repeated his demand, adding, "... or I'll shoot you," whereupon she complied [10am, Tue., 10/28]



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## ROBBERY

From p. 1

tion, and the "leader" said he was 18. Lucas asked them to leave, but instead, they fanned out and cased the store.

Lucas hit the alarm and told the youths they must leave because he'd called the police. Instead, they began shouting at him and the leader had obviously put something in his jacket. At the time, Lucas said, the weather was too warm for jackets.

After nearly 30 minutes following their having left the store the police still had not responded to the call, and, said Lucas, he again called the police and was informed that they had other priorities and hadn't been able to dispatch an officer.

The next day, again in the morning, five youths—including the "leader" from the previous day—came into the store and fanned out. They immediately started stealing, at which point Lucas sounded the alarm and left the store in what he said was an effort to find help and hopefully lure them out of the store.

Police did arrive, but more than 20 minutes after his call. They drove Lucas around the immediate area and did spot two youths who could have been part of the group, but the officers didn't stop the patrol car. Another officer saw what looked like the youths ducking behind cars in a nearby parking lot and that officer requested a patrol car to investigate, yet that car failed to enter the parking lot, Lucas said.

According to Lucas, the youths were all wearing black jackets, yet one of the officers, making light of the situation, suggested that Lucas was pointing out everyone who had a black jacket and, when they were passing by a man in a wheelchair who was wearing a black jacket, asked if he was one of the youths. "That was not a serious question," complained Lucas. "I couldn't believe he asked me that."

Lucas did acknowledge that officers did pick up two youths, but, since he couldn't

be sure they were part of the group—he was only sure about the leader, they were let go.

The next day, October 29, seven of the youths returned, this time during the afternoon. Lucas said he left the store and, locking it behind him with the youths inside, called the police. Even though he explained that he was in trouble, again they were slow to reply, he said.

The youths unlocked the door from the inside, came out and began encircling Lucas. In an effort to scare them off, he said he acted as if he had a gun in his pocket; one of the youths then acted as if he also had a gun. They then left the scene without harming him.

When the police did arrive, even though they had moved from in front of his store, Lucas was able to point them out a short distance away. But instead of the officers going after them, they proceeded to ask him questions and made no effort to go apprehend his tormentors. Instead, according to Lucas, one of the officers told him, "You're not helping us."

Despite his complaints about how the police handled the situation, Lucas did cite the work of Lt. Diane Groomes, who he said has shown great attention to his concerns.

Lucas said he would be taking up concerns about the police—particularly the inaction and attitude of several officers—with the Logan Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Logan Circle Community Association. Cary Silverman, a Logan Circle ANC commissioner, has already circulated a description of the youths and has asked residents to be on the lookout for them.

*Editor's Note: We could find no entry in the police crime reports about this robbery and assault. We have also received information that a group of youths of similar description has been observed around the 14th and U Streets area, just a few short blocks north of P Street.*

## How to Tackle Crime Debated at Meeting; No Consensus Reached

By Terry Lane

With the Mt. Pleasant community still reeling from the mid-day shootout last month, Advisory Neighborhood Commission Chairman Dominic Sale pushed for a resolution that may seem simple on its face: Enforce the law.

Though it sounded simple, the resolution authored by Sale proved to be complicated and divisive and he withdrew it before it's likely rejection by the ANC. But the debate over the resolution reflected the frustration of some residents over crime problems and the fears of other residents of overzealous police enforcement.

Residents at the November 3 ANC meeting where Sale pushed the resolution were essentially split down the middle, with some pushing for more strict enforcement of the so-called "quality of life" crimes and others worried about how stricter enforcement of laws in Mt. Pleasant could backfire and potentially make the crime situation worse.

Sale's resolution called on the police department to implement "consistent and strict" enforcement of all laws in the neighborhood. With the resolution, the ANC was asking police to make more arrests for everything from public drunkenness and theft to jay walking, double parking, lewd behavior and profanity.

"The quality of life of everyone is affected by the high crime rate," Sale said. "The police department's apparent policy is one of lenient enforcement."

But Sale's resolution was met with oppo-

sition from both the community and most of the ANC's members. ANC Commissioner Jack McKay was first to raise concerns.

"We have a limited number of police officers," McKay said. "It doesn't make sense to put our resources towards the little problems."

McKay said the biggest crime problem is an open-air drug market around the corner of Park Road and Mt. Pleasant Street. But McKay worried that if police focused their resources on the smaller infractions, the problem of drug dealing in that area would only become worse.

Many, though sympathetic with Sale's goal for the resolution, said they had worries that the "consistent enforcement" clause in the resolution would in fact be inconsistent. Several commissioners and residents—many of them Latino or black—agreed that the policy was likely to be used against minority residents of the neighborhood.

Debate on a strict enforcement of laws also conjured memories of one of Mt. Pleasant's most lawless moments: the infamous 1991 riots. The riots were sparked after the shooting of a Latino man, which was perceived at the time as overzealous police action directed at the neighborhood's Latino resident.

"The riots 10 years ago were the result of these type of zero-tolerance policies," said ANC Commissioner Barbara Bitondo. "I don't want to be part of a vote that takes us down that road again."

Bitondo and ANC Commissioner Jennifer Babcock said they were particularly concerned with the police interaction with non-English speakers. Babcock said

Cont., CRIME, p. 22



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# Scenes from the Past...



Shown in this 1916 photo (above) is the U.S. Weather Bureau's central office at the southwest corner of 24th and M Streets, construction of which was started in 1886.

Many older Washingtonians may remember this 1942 building of the U.S. Weather Bureau at 24th and M Streets, shown at right, which was built in the front yard of the original 1886 building.

On the site now occupied by a nondescript office building on the southwest corner of 24th and M Streets stood for many decades the U.S. Weather Bureau, where the city's meteorological recordings were taken from 1889 to 1942.

Physicist Joseph Henry, who served as the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from 1846 to 1878, inaugurated the system of public, daily meteorological observations in 1856, which eventually led to the establishment of the United States Weather Bureau. It was a direct result of the invention of the telegraph, which could transmit weather data instantaneously from various parts of the country to Henry, who then recorded them on a public map. It was first learned that weather traveled west to east during this time, and weather conditions could then be traced.

Many persons had made observation before him, including Thomas Jefferson, who recorded the temperature in Independence Hall two times on July 4, 1776, but these were made for prosterity, not for public consumption or forecasting. It was not until 1870 that Wisconsin Congressman General Halbert E. Paine introduced a bill to establish a weather forecasting system in the United States; it would eventually grow into the largest such institution in the world.

The Weather Bureau in Washington began issuing a "daily forecast card" on June 18, 1881, a civilian service that continued until January 25, 1925. The central office of the Weather Bureau was established in 1886 at the southwest corner of 24th and M Streets, and completed in 1889. Observations of temperature, precipitation, wind, humidity, and sky cover were made here from March 22, 1889 to March 2, 1942 from atop the castle-like building. Up until 1891, the beginnings of the Bureau were part of the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army.

Despite the successes, the centralized system locat-



From the top of the castle-like building, observations of temperature, precipitation, wind, humidity, and sky cover were made from March 22, 1889 to March 2, 1942, when a new building was completed adjacent to the original structure.



photo—courtesy, Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

photo—courtesy, Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.



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Records and measurements for Washington weather conditions began to be taken in 1942 at the newly completed Washington National Airport, which has been a subject of controversy ever since. Seen here is Miss Margaret Duffy preparing to launch a weather balloon on April 23, 1942.

ed in the District of Columbia, proved to be problematic and not as responsive as many had hoped. In 1935, the system was reorganized and local offices were set up in Jacksonville, New Orleans, Boston and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Airplane flights and more extensive communication systems provided additional and improved data for the Weather Bureau, and forecasts improved.

In March 1942 an annex building that was built directly in front of the original Weather Bureau "castle"—a much larger, Moderne-styled structure—opened for business. But, with World War II on the horizon, it proved too small for the Bureau's ever expanding needs, and many duties were moved to the Pentagon and National Airport. The Bureau was faced with the problem of enciphering and deciphering on the average of 150,000 words daily, consisting mainly of weather reports. Such reports formed the basis for rendering weather service to the Army, Navy, and also domestic industries engaged in war production.

Miss Margaret Duffy was one of the first women employees of the U.S. Weather Bureau, hired because of shortages of male employees during the war. C. O. Schick, then the meteorologist in charge, stated in the April 23, 1942 Washington Star that "he had always been opposed to women as weather workers, but he has been surprised—they will learn every phase of observation, but will not be allowed to make formal forecasts, which is a ticklish feat."

Duffy can be seen here launching a weather balloon from Washington National Airport. Not shown is the radiosonde, which is attached to the helium balloon when released; it soars toward the stratosphere and broadcasts temperature, humidity, and pressure readings. When the balloon finally pops, the instrument descends by parachute, with a note attached asking for its return. It was noted in the Star article "that if the radiosonde should fall on an axis submarine near the coast it would do its captors no good, for it forgets its weather findings as soon as it is broadcast."

The fact that weather observations and daily records that have been taken at airport since 1942 are applied to the official records for the city of Washington have frustrated weather enthusiasts and residents for years. Many see them as inaccurate, as it is acknowledged even by local television meteorologists that conditions at the weather station at the end of the runway is likely not the same result one would record at a centrally located city observation station such as that which was at 24th and M Streets for over 60 years.

—Paul Kelsey Williams  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
Kelsey & Associates, Washington, DC

## RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

By Alexandra Greeley\*

### DUPONT GRILLE The Name of the Game

Perhaps the most telling part of dinner at Dupont Grille—the rather racy addition to Dupont Circle's dining scene—is its community presence. Seated in the Jurys Hotel's uniquely structured dining room, which looks and feels a little like a glass atrium, patrons have the eerie feeling of participating in the street's goings on as they look across toward the ever-present Starbucks and Riggs Bank beyond.

Take a recent dinner. Crowds gathered in noisy knots in and around Dupont Circle, a scant few paces away from the New Hampshire Avenue entrance to Dupont Grille. Loud harrumphing and pounding echoed with the night sounds, and brief snatches of big band music swelled through. Benny Goodman and Swing? No, of course not. But the foot-tappers had the same spirit and crowd appeal, and underscored why what's happening is happening on Dupont Circle's streets. And eating in its almost-alfresco dining room/patio/terrace gives its patrons a front row seat for the action. That is, unless the maitre d' happens to sit you way inside, which does not seem to be his first choice.

Surely not every night is party time in the Circle, so when sidewalks are quieter, you can simply eat, gaze out, and reflect on the nature of Washington, food, and possibly your companions. You can also drive yourself crazy deciding which of Chef Cornell Coulon's various appetizers and entrées will fit your bill.

According to local press, Coulon is a protégé of none other than Emeril (Lagasse, of course), the New Orleans chef who needs no further introduction. Having not sampled Lagasse's preparations, I'm hard-pressed to say just what the influences of his Cajun-style former boss might be on Coulon. But his menu has very little of the Cajun, Creole, or frankly, Southern influence you might expect. Instead, Coulon takes a much more solidly contemporary American approach, wresting his food from regionalism to a much broader scope. After all, what fiery Cajun cook would turn out Cashew-Crusted Tempeh, a much more high-flying, big-on-trendy dish than, say, an

Oyster Po' Boy?

And who could pass up this French/Belgium delight, Steak Frites? Not me, that's for sure. Coulon takes this idea and runs. And instead of serving a thin, pan-grilled number with thin, twirly fried potatoes, he slices up a rare, tender steak into tidy strips, and sides them with a mountain of fresh, hot thick fries—and passes on a parsley-flecked butter. And—it seems there's garlic everywhere! Other entrée temptations include pan-roasted grouper, prosciutto and spinach-wrapped tuna, and a grilled ribeye with a smoked gouda-white corn polenta. Study the entrée selections as you might, you will find it hard to pin down any Cajunese.

But Coulon's Southern hand slips in at least one non-Yankee dish: the gumbo of the evening. That's one way to begin the meal, but I'd say a better bet—assuming you like squid—is Coulon's flash-fried squid dusted with the finest of lemon zest. Other possibilities include a Shrimp Ravigote, a Chicken and Mushroom Napoleon with apple and pickled ginger slaw, and the Dupont Grille Chopped Salad. The last might well be expanded into a full-meal salad, I'll bet.

Sorry to say that the dessert menu is not loftier. You can turn to a warm chocolate cake, a white chocolate-cranberry bread pudding, or assorted ice creams, plus one or two other things. It almost seemed that the waitress apologized for so few choices, or maybe nothing really appealed because the garlicky steak still had me in its thrall. □

**Dupont Grille, 1500 New Hamp. Ave., NW; tel., 939-9595. Hours: breakfast daily; lunch, Mon.-Fri.; dinner nightly; brunch, Sat. & Sun. Entrée prices: \$16-\$28. Major credit cards accepted.**

\*Alexandra Greeley is a food writer, editor and restaurant reviewer. She has authored books published by Simon & Schuster, Doubleday, and Macmillan. Other credits include food editor of Vegetarian Times, restaurant reviews and food articles for The Washington Post and The Washington Times, as well as former food editor/writer for the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong.

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- **El Tamarindo**, 1785 Florida Ave. (tel., 328-3660).
- **Grill From Ipanema**, 1858 Columbia Rd. (tel., 986-0757). Offers an "abacate maraja," the fruit stuffed with shrimp, tomato, onion, and green pepper.
- **Juanita's Grocery**, 2001 18th St. (tel., 667-2541). This convenience store also sells a variety of Latin products.
- **Las Maria's**, 1345 S St. (tel., 483-0858; 483-0878). This tiny Salvadoran-owned luncheonette makes guacamole, according to the waitress, with "huevos" (eggs).
- **Naturally Yours**, 2029 P St. (tel., 429-1718).

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# Food in the 'Hood

By Joel Denker

## THE "BUTTER PEAR": THE MYSTERIOUS AVOCADO

**Editor's Note:** The writer, a former Peace Corp volunteer in Africa many years ago, is the author of *Capital Flavors: Exploring Washington's Ethnic Restaurants* (1988, Seven Locks Press), which evolved from his series in this newspaper over a decade ago, known then as "The Ethnic Bazaar." In addition, just this past June, his *The World on a Plate: A Tour Through the History of America's Ethnic Cuisines* was published by Westview Press ([www.westviewpress.com](http://www.westviewpress.com)), in which part of one chapter was drawn from articles that originally had appeared in this space.

Queries, comments, suggestions can be sent to [denker@starpower.net](mailto:denker@starpower.net).

We had to be taught to eat them. Even in these sophisticated days, the avocado, the ancient fruit so vital to the indigenous peoples of the Americas, is consumed by most of us as a bar snack or party dip. Superbowl Sunday, according to Washington Post food writer Carole Sugarman, remains our largest avocado feast day. Twenty-six million tons of guacamole are scarfed down during this bacchanal. Few Washingtonians have tried avocado soup or contemplated avocado leaves to invigorate a Mexican mole.

The supermarket's pebbly, black-skinned avocado or its kin, the larger, glossy green-skinned fruit, descend from a plant that grew wild in the highlands of South America. It was called the "nubigena," or "cloud born," according to anthropologist Margaret Visser. Few are aware of the thin-skinned "aguacate" from Mexico, the land in whose food it figures most prominently. (Until quite recently, the Mexican avocado was barred from import to the U.S. because of pressure from domestic growers.) Unlike the grocery store variety, the Mexican avocado is fragrant, offering up the scent of anise.

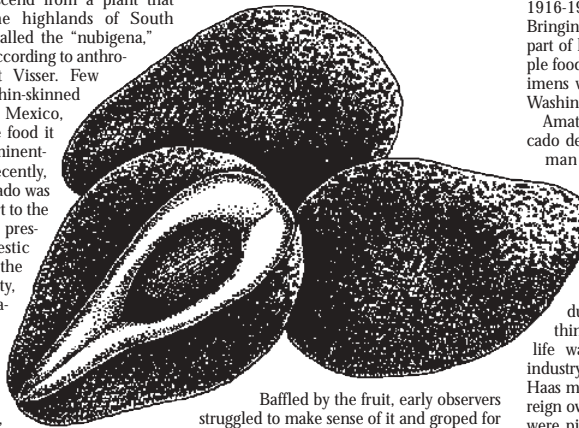
The avocado of her homeland, Gladys Fernandez, a waitress at the El Tamarindo restaurant, tells me, "huele bien" (smells good). A member of the evergreen laurel family, which includes cinnamon, bay leaf, and sassafras, the avocado shares the species' rich aroma.

The odd-looking tropical vegetable, which is anatomically actually a fruit, has long been a source of puzzlement. The many names that have been attached to it—alligator pear, avocado pear, butter fruit, butter pear—suggest its curiosity. In Mexico, where seed remains date back to 7,000 B.C., the Aztecs referred to the tree, from whose long stalks the fruits hung in pairs, as "ahuacacuahatl," the testicle tree. The Spanish shortened the name to aguacate.

The high-energy fruit, which probably grew wild in the mountainous forests, was avidly sought by the Aztecs. They picked out the larger fruits and concentrated on

cultivating them. To a people who subsisted on a low-fat diet, the crop's oily flesh was immensely attractive. We now know that the avocado's fat contains high quantities of "good" cholesterol, mono-unsaturated fats.

Aguacate had other advantages for the aboriginal farmers. Since it was one of the few fruits that didn't ripen on the tree, it could be picked when convenient. Only when the avocado is plucked from the branch and exposed to warmth, does it begin to soften. This happens, food science expert Harold McKee points out, because picking it cuts off the avocado from the hormone in the leaves that prevents ripening.



Baffled by the fruit, early observers struggled to make sense of it and groped for ways to use it. "In the center of the fruit is a seed like a peeled chestnut," observed Fernandez de Oviedo, a chronicler of the Indies, in 1526. "And between this and the rind is the part which is eaten, which is abundant, and a paste similar to butter and of very good taste." Since the avocado looked like a pear, Oviedo encouraged eating it with cheese.

Jose de Acosta, another Spanish writer, preferred taking his avocado with sugar, while other commentators recommended salt. Jesuit missionary Bernabe Cobo, who urged that avocado oil be used for cooking and lighting, proposed that the fruit, like olives, be stored in brine.

Its resemblance to butter was another source of fascination. European sailors spread avocado, which they called "midshipman's butter," on hardtack biscuits in the 1700s.

Others seized on the avocado's meat-

ness. Pere Labat, a French priest who traveled through the Caribbean during the same era, was struck by how wild pigs, carnivorous animals, gobbled up avocados on the ground: "These animals become in consequence marvelously plump, and their flesh contracts an excellent savour."

The avocado found its way from Central America to the Andes, where the Incas called it "palta," and was transplanted to the Caribbean. By the 19th century, sunbelt Americans began to take notice. "Alligator pears" were first grown in Florida as ornamental plants. In California, which would become the seedbed of the country's avocado industry, agriculturists started hunting for varieties that could be hybridized and flourish in the climate of the Golden State.

In Southern California, it was not Mexican immigrants, those most acquainted with the fruit, who promoted the avocado, but natives, predominantly horticulturists. Frederick O. Popenoe, the owner of the West Indian Gardens in Altadena, California, was one such pioneer. Popenoe sent expeditions to California to uncover budwood for grafting avocado trees. One of his assistants brought back a dooryard plant from Mexico, the basis for the popular hybrid, the hardy Fuerte.

His son, Wilson Popenoe, a self-described "explorer" for the USDA, rode horseback thousands of miles through the Central American highlands between 1916-1919 ferreting out tropical fruits. Bringing back cuttings of the avocado was part of his mission to make the fruit a "staple foodstuff." Popenoe sent budwood specimens wrapped in moss to his sponsors in Washington.

Amateur farmers played a key role in avocado development. Rudolph Haas, a mailman who came to California from Milwaukee, chanced on a new variety after planting 300 avocado seeds. Named after its inventor, the Haas possessed highly marketable assets. The leathery fruit with a somewhat nutty flavor was eminently shippable, more durable than the flavorful but fragile, thin-skinned Mexican avocado. Shelf life was a higher consideration to the industry than taste. Moreover, since the Haas matured during the summer, it could reign over the market until the winter crops were picked. West Coast farmers put their money on the Haas, which became the avocado of choice.

The avocado promoters had to overcome another hurdle—making their product appetizing to the public. Having dispelled the superstition that the fruit was an aphrodisiac, they set about giving it an enticing image. As historian Jeffrey Charles tells the story, the marketers aimed their campaign at an audience of well-heeled women. The California Avocado Society advertised it during the twenties in the *New Yorker* and *Vogue* as the "aristocrat of salad fruits." Food writers hired by the organization wrote recipes in newspaper columns extolling elegant dishes like avocado and grapefruit salad, which became the most popular dish using the fruit.

While the industry has been homogenizing the avocado, ethnics stubbornly cling to

Cont., FOOD, p. 15

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## NEIGHBORHOOD THEATER

By Anthony L. Harvey

### “The Brothers Karamazov” Presented by Stanislavsky Theater Studio at the Church Street Theater, 1742 Church St., NW

In a boldly dramatic stage adaptation of Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s famous last novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, Stanislavsky Theater Studio (STS) is presenting local theater audiences with an ingeniously creative way of dramatically highlighting Dostoyevsky’s revolutionary accomplishment of composing sprawling 19th century novels with multiple rather than single authorial voices—voices, moreover, which are allowed to both speak and answer back. And what incredibly expressive voices from such a wildly colorful range of characters!

First there’s the father—Fyodor Karamazov, a lust besotted rogue, guilty of a universe of crimes, including that of both disinheriting his eldest son Dimitry and taunting him with it—to whom Dostoyevsky gives his own first name in the first of many acts of authorial forgiving, this no doubt a forgiveness of his own brutish, cold, and apparently unloving father who is thought to have been murdered by his own serfs.

Dimitry Karamazov is Mother Russia’s protean son, who glories in his own inextricably mixed sacred and profane character traits; next is his youngest brother Alyosha, the realistic but loving and all forgiving character, to whom Dostoyevsky gives the name of his just deceased and deeply mourned youngest son; and finally, among the main characters, the middle brother Ivan, who is cynical, world-weary, atheistic, and deeply implicit in the murderous and suicidal behavior of the shadowy, illegitimate brother Smerdyakov. And, tragically bound up in the destinies of these, and the other characters in their immediate lives, are hidden agendas that will explode into tragic violence.

Dostoyevsky’s extraordinary tale takes place in the heaven and hell of 19th century Russia. It begins with a meeting in a holy monk’s monastery cell, shifts to a decidedly unholy setting of a petty nobleman’s disorderly country estate, and ends in an old fashioned and richly depicted provincial courthouse and jail.

STS’s vigorous production demonstrates once again the facility of Dostoyevsky’s fictions for the stage; as noted by his primary interpreter Mikhail Bakhtin, “Plot in Dostoyevsky is absolutely devoid of any kind of finalizing foundations. Its goal is to place a person in various situations that expose and provoke him, to bring people together and make them collide and conflict in such a way, however, that they do not remain within this area of plot-related contact but exceed its bounds.” STS founding director Andrei Malaev-Babel’s handling of Writer-in-Residence Roland Reed’s sprightly and fast moving adaptation of this classic Russian (and universally human) morality tale moves masterly through its two-and-a-half hour length to its inexorable conclusion.

With a Greek chorus of nine, skillfully choreographed actresses behind cleverly designed shield-like stands—with sharply outlining lighting—the brothers and their



photo—Stan Barouh—sts-online.org

entourage move though the violence, storytelling, argumentation, and special pleading with a smoothly fluid and, at times, explosive pace. The cast is stellar: Steve Wilhite, who plays Ivan, is mesmerizing as a character full of both fire and ice; Joe Mills’ powerful Dimitry fills a muscular role’s commanding presence; Justin Benoit even looks like you might expect Alyosha to look, and his gifts of stage presence and graceful movement and gesture are integral to the glue that holds the brothers together; David Gaines and his many and marvelous talents make the scoundrel father great fun to watch.

STS actors are called on to play multiple roles in this largely populated play and none does this better than Christopher Moss, who brilliantly pulls off the roles of Father Zossimia, Smerdyakov, and the Grand Inquisitor (among others). Women, who are both central and secondary in this drama, are fully equal to the tasks of playing against, and in collaboration with, the strengths of the Karamazov father and brothers: Anna Kepe shines as Grushenka, the object of both Fyodor and Dimitry’s lust and a powerful character in her own right, as is Lisa Lias, playing the mother of Dimitry’s betrothed, who excels with the strength of a Mother Russia fully capable of the most “westernized” of sophistication.

No matter how little or how much one knows of Dostoyevsky’s work, the freshness and inventiveness of this mighty STS production will thoroughly engage and challenge everyone. From the humor of the Russian folktale of pulling sinners from the bowels of hell with the bulb of an onion, to the frightening appearance of the Grand Inquisitor and his awesome discourse on freedom and the human condition, and to say nothing of the strength and tenderness lovingly invested in the expressions and words of the character Alyosha, all this comes together in a glorious finale—Dimitry, Alyosha,



photo—Stan Barouh—sts-online.org

and Katerina, ready for the second volume that Dostoyevsky never had the opportunity to write.

The shining skills of STS resident lighting designer Colin Bills stand out among the fine design and production talents of the STS Company, whose current staging of this work, which opened on Dostoyevsky’s October birthday, continues through December 21 at the Church Street Theater (1742 Church Street, NW). For reservations and tickets, call (800) 494-8497. □

## FOOD

From p. 14

the fruit of their memories. In my wanderings, I talked to Nora Alvarez, who was helping her mother stock the shelves at Juanita’s Groceries in Adams Morgan. A box of avocados lay on the floor. To the young Salvadoran, avocado meant a basic food that accompanied a simple dinner plate of beans, a slice of cheese, and “cream,” a Latin sour cream. “It is a very poor country,” Nora said of El Salvador.

A few doors down at Florida Avenue, El Tamarindo, a Salvadoran restaurant to whose proprietors Nora is related, serves “El Tipico,” a dish that is popular among Latin newcomers. The Salvadoran repast brings together scrambled eggs, rice, beans, and avocado. The menu also features a guacamole omelet which, Nora strenuously asserts, is “Mexican,” not Salvadoran—

too extravagant, perhaps, for her humble land.

Gladys Fernandez, El Tamarindo’s Mexican waitress, explained the nuances of guacamole to me. The Mexicans mash their avocado for the salad, while the Salvadorans chop the fruit. The Mexicans also prepare a peppery guacamole with jalapeno peppers, while the Salvadorans make a tamer version. The Salvadorans, unlike the Mexicans, mix eggs into their dip (although not at El Tamarindo).

The “aguacate” can also beautify the skin, Ms. Fernandez says. It can eliminate pimples. “Whatever on your face you want to disappear you use the seed.”

It is not only Central Americans who have placed their faith in the avocado cosmetic. An avocado massage bar caught my eye at Naturally Yours, the P Street health food store east of Dupont Circle, which also often carries an avocado “cleanser” for the skin. □

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# At The Museums

By David Barrows\* and Anthony L. Harvey\*\*

## MEXICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

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In an inspired pairing of two, totally dissimilar art exhibitions, the Mexican Cultural Institute continues its wonderfully illustrative series of art presentations for Washington audiences which highlight the richness and diversity of contemporary Mexican artists, whose work covers the broadest range of aesthetic forms—from traditional painting, drawing, print-making, sculpture, and photography to that of the most avant garde conceptual and installation art.



Lorraine Pinto, "Dialog," bronze.

In the Institute's ground floor Orozco gallery the work of painter and sculptor Lorraine Pinto is being showcased in the first of the two exhibitions, titled "Illuminasi." Pinto's gaunt, twisted, and surreally-topped figurative sculptures are in the most unlikely and unexpectedly of fashions enigmatically joyous; their roots are seemingly drawn from the earliest of Middle Eastern figurative constructions to that of African bronze stick figures, and onto the angst of Giacometti's pessimistic take on the fate of modern man. Pinto's paintings, by contrast, are lushly colored, multi-layered translucent abstractions—engagingly lighted and displayed. A terrific free pamphlet accompanies this exhibit, which continues on display only through November 21.

The second show, titled "Blanc," and handsomely displayed in the fourth floor Frida Kahlo galleries, challenges the viewer with a diversity of abstract, conceptual, and

\*David Barrows is a published poet and painter whose work has been shown in the Washington area over the past 20 years. He studied at the Cooper Union in New York and at the Corcoran School of Art and earned his B.A. in Fine Arts at The George Washington University.

\*\*Anthony L. Harvey is a collector of contemporary art, with an emphasis on Washington artists. He is a founding member of the Washington Review of the Arts. For many years he was the staff person in the United States Senate responsible for arts and Library of Congress oversight by the Senate's Rules and Administration Committee and the House and Senate's Joint Committee on the Library.



Romare Bearden, "The Block II," 1972.

installation art by artists whose concerns range from questions of the exploited labor force toiling in the maquiladoras on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border to the philosophic and sculptural disquisitions on the meanings "of the whiteness of the whale" in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. Artistic presentations of the persistence of memory, the experiencing of "whiteness" while creating a sculptural painting, the capturing on video of a white box "construct" which could be anything from a prison cell to an exercise room (or a museum or commercial gallery white box exhibition space), and an artist's book with wall-mounted prose poems celebrating the desolation and loss through a "Northwest Passage" of the nostalgia for a lost lover are further themes in this meaty arts ensemble.

Carlos Ancalmo's *Beached*, Margarita Calbrera's *White/Green Iron*, Berta Koltenuik's *Blanc*, El Perro's *Living in a White Box*, and Gean Moreno's *Northwest Passage* are standouts in this fascinating show, which will close one day before the one discussed above—on November 20. It is accompanied by an exceptionally well-crafted free exhibition catalog, which is vital to a fuller appreciation of many of these fine conceptual art works.

—Anthony L. Harvey

## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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A star of the Harlem Renaissance, Romare Bearden, is having a massive, posthumous showing at the National Gallery, and it's about time that the great artists of the progressive African-American community are presented at their best. Here is a good start. This tremendously successful exhibition of work by an artists who absorbed the intellectual ideas of Parisian and New York art communities shows 130 works that sample his accomplishments in painting, drawing, watercolor, monotype, and collage—presenting works that often add the dimensions of that artist's own conscience and background. While Bearden picked and chose from the fashions of theory, he often combined paint with pasted collage in achieving not only powerful imagery but an application of material done with extreme skill.

As in the case of many famous African-American painters, like the late Lois Mailou Jones, Bearden put his art towards

the cause of Black liberation to help end the degradation of the Jim Crow laws and the age-old American state of apartheid that continued into and across the 1960s. Not only did he enter the world of activism but also the worlds of jazz and Harlem, worlds so uniquely American that the National Gallery makes the most appropriate setting from which to launch this show which, following its January 4 closing here, will travel to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Whitney, and winding up at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

But, this is not a show based on mere ethnicity nor does it pander to political correctness. Nor indeed is it the selling point for a newly promoted tourist agenda, which



Romare Bearden, "Untitled (He Is Arisen)," 1945.



Romare Bearden, "Train Whistle Blues: I.," 1964.



Romare Bearden, "Family," 1954.

DC Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton did her best to pitch to the many scribes present for the gallery's long press conference as she cited Mayor

Anthony Williams' plans for collaborative events aimed at bringing tourists to help enrich DC—the same mayor of ours who spent lots of fine arts grant money to put an elephant or donkey on every downtown street corner. No! This exhibition is the discovery ground for another star, another light into the expansion of artistic creation. Another increase to our vocabulary of vision. Thus it is that the works are shown in chronological arrangement, with some from the 1940s, a few from the 1950s, but the vast majority from the 1960s and '70s.

The great artists as they are presented by art historians to their classes of memorization and canonization are chosen based on those who paved the way for insights and invention in vision—whether Giotto, da Vinci, Cezanne, Matisse, Ryder, Magritte, or Joseph Cornell the collagist. Although these classes are considered as "art appreciation," professors often put quality of vision and skill as their last criteria. The last thing taught is how the artist has turned his or her depiction into a sheer source of pleasure. Not only did Bearden present his visions uniquely, which is enough to satisfy these professors, but he knew how to apply collaged materials without leaving a noticeable trace. He also knew how to paint between applied materials to achieve compositional harmony.

Many of us recall National Gallery exhibition of the works of Ludwig Kirchner. Although far better known in Europe than ever in this country, his works appeared amazing, complex and evocative. And, now

this show follows in the very same space—in the East Building, the best display space in the whole museum for viewing the magical energy that is at work within the many unique images, integrating many disparate parts to achieve one theme. Shedding new light on an old, ignored talent like Bearden's gives us the very water and sunlight from which young artists can drink.

Romare Bearden developed through the struggles of the great Depression and the civil rights movement as well as from the great art revolutions of Western art. His inspirations were as much in touch with the studios of the Fauves and Cubists of France as with

the best jazz stages of Harlem.

Often, art schools teach you to keep it simple (one line is better than many) to retain clarity. Bearden could weave from out of the intricate fractures of his flat picture planes a unity of vision achieved from a process that moves more like a highly detailed symphony than a catchy blues tune. Yet, an integral rhythm rocks many an image with juxtaposed proportions that clash against each other—jiving, expanding and shrinking, subtle or shouting. Sharp, brilliant colors pop in and out.

—David Barrows

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Romare Bearden, "The Street (Composition for Richard Wright)," 1977.

movement as well as from the great art revolutions of Western art. His inspirations were as much in touch with the studios of the Fauves and Cubists of France as with



Walter Inglis Anderson, "Magnolia Pod."

prints, drawings, sculptures, and ceramic designs by an extraordinary artist of the Mississippi Gulf Coast—one who is unknown to most Washingtonians—in a traveling exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth in New Orleans to a wealthy family in that city's Garden District, a family that was steeped in the fine arts and the professions of law and medicine, neither of which the young artist Walter Anderson pursued.

Instead, encouraged by his parents to develop his natural gift for drawing and his early love of close observation of plants and animals in the outdoors, Anderson trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, as well as in Paris and the south of France. He combined his formal study with travels throughout the American southwest, Mexico and China, and with the absorption of the writings of such authors as Walt Whitman and Henry David Thoreau.

This study, work, and travel led Anderson to a life which embraced fully the natural world of the Gulf of Mexico and its many humanly uninhabited islands whose lush fauna and flora served to inform his artist palette with Eden-like environments of stunningly colorful beauty. Anderson's life became one of extraordinarily productive artistic output—all of it recording the natural history of his immediate surroundings and the historical imaginings of his inventive compositions for murals and narrative paintings recording man's presence on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

These works are astonishing; their range of pictorial elements include beautifully rendered birds, flowers, and fish, and imaginary landscapes of almost hallucinatory



Walter Inglis Anderson, "Running Horse Vase."

"Walter Inglis Anderson: Everything I See is New and Strange" presents representative paintings, watercolors,

beauty. His stylized murals draw on art of all ages—in addition to that of the world around him—and incorporate a patterning of repeated forms that create complex and colorful compositions depicting man in history, in ways you would not necessarily expect. Be it in images of the bulls in Altamira caves to the dancing Greek Prince on the Isle of Crete to the Biloxi Indians "bringing home the kill," Anderson's transformed creations are a new world, one that is all his own.

These beautiful works, however, are strangely installed in one of the large exhibition lobby areas of the decaying Arts and Industry Building adjacent to the Smithsonian Castle. A terrific 28-minute video on Anderson, his art, and the terrain where he worked is shown continuously in a convenient corner of the exhibition hall; there is also a wonderful scale model small house re-creation of the artist's cottage mural. The exhibition catalog that accompanies this important show is beautifully printed and, as especially important with Anderson's work, is gloriously illustrated. On view through January 11, 2004.

—Anthony L. Harvey

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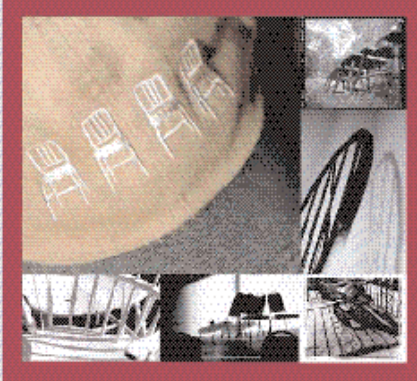
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**WILLIAMS**

From p. 1

next evening at the City Museum as the featured participant in a panel on "gentrification." The mayor, in fact, was a no-show the next evening, sending in his place the articulate and well-prepared director of the city's Department of Housing and Community Development, Stanley Jackson. The other panel members were from suburban Maryland, northern Virginia, and the Columbia Heights and Dupont Circle neighborhoods: Al Eisenberg, Robert Moore, Jim Abdo, and Maria Maldonado; Erik Wemple of the City Paper served as moderator.

To the increasing restiveness of the packed auditorium (standing room only), this very knowledgeable, experienced panel discussed affordable housing rather than gentrification until challenged by a young man in the audience who identified himself as an American University doctoral candidate who was writing his dissertation on gentrification in the Washington neighborhood where he lives—Columbia Heights—and wondered aloud why, as the evening's session was running out of time, gentrification had not been discussed. Other questioners joined in the fray with similarly stated concerns. Round-about replies resulted;

although earnestly and thoughtfully given, these replies did nothing to quell the audience's dissatisfaction with the evening's presentation.

The City Museum's gentrification panel was co-sponsored by an equally earnest pair of young men from Brooklyn, New York, fresh out of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, who were hawkng their new publication *The Next American City*. "Delirious New York" it is not, but rather a well-meaning "Washington Monthly" approach to a national urban affairs magazine. And the crowd that gathered for this event was an equally unexpected (by this reporter) mixture of a very small contingent of City Museum and Washington Historical Society members and two reporters (who were seated first), a very large group of what appeared to be young professionals who patiently stood in line to pay their City Museum admission fee—with Mayor Williams having been billed as the lead panelist—and a large and more forcefully participatory group of citizen activists and Statehood/Green party members eager to voice their disapproval of the Williams administration, who seemed to simply appear as the event was already starting.

On the third of three consecutive days Mayor Williams did appear—late—at The Phillips Collection's ground breaking for its

\$27 million expansion project for which the District government is providing the financing. The mayor explained his lateness by relating his experience from an earlier event he had just attended, the dedication of the new Bowling Green Apartments project in Congress Heights. "I wish that I were even later," he said, "because although I love ground breakings for new buildings, I love even more tearing down old buildings" (such as would be occurring as part of the Bowling Green dedication), "and I had to leave before the demolition!"

The Phillips Collection expansion will create a new education center, additional gallery space, an art and technology laboratory, and a digital data base containing much of the museum's permanent collection. The expansion will also create an archive housing Duncan Phillips's writings, improved and expanded library facilities, and a 180-seat auditorium. Central to all of this is the Phillip's proposed Center for Studies in Modern Art. Noting the value of The Phillips Collection to the residents of the city, Mayor Williams concluded his dedicatory remarks by contrasting the mission of the City Museum with that of the Phillips: "The City Museum," said the mayor, "tells us where we've been and where we've come. The Phillips Collection does something far more important [with its mission]—to tell us who we are." □

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Beautiful home located in convenient, wooded Dumont Oaks! This five bedroom, three and half bath modern home has so much to offer. Surrounded by lush landscaping grounds and complemented by an oversized garage. Settle back in your large family room that has high vaulted ceilings, skylights and a large stone fireplace to keep you warm on those cold winter nights. The separate dining room that looks out over the wooded grounds will be very appealing to your dinner guest, and then afterwards, relax and discuss worldly topics in your formal living room. There are three good size bedrooms upstairs with a central full bath and the master bedroom suite. The suite has spacious closets, a luxurious bathroom, with a separate tub and a shower stall. Don't need three bedrooms, then convert one into an office or private den. The lower level has a large storage room, recreational room, bedroom and full bath that is great for guests that are here for an extended stay or as an au pair suite. This is a home to love!



1921 S Street, NW Washington DC • \$1,095,000



Located in Dupont, this is a special property for owner and investor that offer all the amenities necessary for luxury urban living. The owners unit is a spacious 3 level home with well-appointed 2 bedrooms and large den and 2 renovated baths. There are 2 off street parking spaces and a private upper level terrace. The kitchen is updated with beautiful vintage maple cabinets. The owners unit measures over 2000 S.F. with 2 fireplaces. The separate metered high-income rental unit has 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. There is also a den and exposed brick through out with central air and a washer and dryer.

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## CRIME

From p. 10

the language gap is appearing to lead to institutional racism that would only be exacerbated by the resolution.

Several local residents also had worries about how the resolution would be enforced. Nitza Segui, a local resident, said the resolution wouldn't be effective since it doesn't target the open-air drug market on Park Road. "This resolution is not going to get us there," she said.

Others thought the approach by Sale was ineffective. Jose McMurray said the ANC hadn't thought through the resolution closely enough and that it was "divisive" to the community. "Focus on the problem," he said. Neighborhood resident Richard Hardy said he was "frightened" of Sale and his efforts.

But several residents—many who live in the Park Road area—supported Sale's efforts. "I'm fed up with crime," one woman said. "The laws should be enforced."

It seems like crazy people here, talking about how the law can't be enforced." Another resident said a vote against the resolution is a vote for the status quo.

Sale eventually withdrew the resolution, saying he was concerned that it was scaring people. But he continued to emphasize that not enough was being done to enforce the law. Sale said MPD isn't obligated to make policy changes based on ANC action, but it is instructed to give them "great weight" in considering its enforcement policy.

"We have more officers per capita in this city than any other in the nation," Sale said. "If we need to have more officers, we should have them."

Sale also disputed the notion that the diverse nature of Mt. Pleasant makes enforcement a problem. "We shouldn't be afraid to face these issues," he said. "This is not about the new white people in the community coming down on Latinos. Why does it have to be accepted that a diverse community is a dangerous community?" □

## COMMUNITY

From p. 5

work on display, and join him in a discussion on African-American Art—a particularly timely subject given the important Romare Bearden retrospective exhibition currently showing at the National Gallery of Art. (See, At the Museums, pages 16-17.) Dorsey, a graduate of Howard University's School of Fine Arts, has participated in individual and group shows throughout the Washington area, including at Market 5 Gallery, The Arts Club of Washington, and The Smithsonian Institution. For more info, call 332-3433.

• Tue. Dec. 2 (12:30pm; bar opens, 11:30am): The **Womens National Democratic Club** (New Hamp. Ave. & Q St.) will be holding another of its own "Around Town" LUNCHEON PROGRAM, featuring WETA's Robert Aubry Davis and panelists Jane Horwitz, Bob Mondello, Peter Fay, Bill Dunlap, Joe Barber, and newcomer Janis Goodman, who teaches painting at the Corcoran Gallery. The public is invited to attend and hear about what one should look for in

our local museums, theaters, concert halls, movie houses and art galleries during the up-coming holiday season. Cost for non-members, \$25 (checks to be payable to "WDC Educational Foundation.") Call 232-7363 or send email to [jbaden@democraticwoman.org](mailto:jbaden@democraticwoman.org) for reservations.

• Fri., Dec. 5 (6-8:30pm): This newspaper's Visual Arts Editor, David Barrows, and Capitol Hill artist Susan Coleman will be greeting gallery-goers at their "Fantasies & Realities" exhibit OPENING RECEPTION at the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Library** (9th & G Sts.). On display will be constructions and paintings, including Susan's provocative sculpture *No Scream Loud Enough*, which is based on a double homicide that occurred on a street corner in her neighborhood a few years ago. Through December 30 in the library's lower level gallery.

• Fri., Dec. 12 (9am-5pm): The PTA of the **Stevens Elementary School** (1050-21st St.) will hold its HOLIDAY BAZAAR featuring a variety of baked goods, crafts, and items suitable for holiday gift giving. Never too early to start loading up! For more info, call 724-4852. □

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# Selected Recent Real Estate Sales

Prepared for the InTowner by Jo Ricks\*  
Reporting Period: September 2003

## SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES

167 Adams St.	380,000	1754 Corcoran St. #56B	161,000
1652 Argonne Pl.	654,000	1825 Florida Ave. #21	208,000
154 Bryant St.	370,000	1420 Harvard St. #306	130,000
1929 Calvert St.	770,000	1741 Johnson Ave. #102	528,000
1462 Chapin St.	490,000	1038 Lamont St. #1b	265,000
643 Columbia Rd.	225,000	1038 Lamont St. #3b	169,000
712 Columbia Rd.	175,000	1711 Mass. Ave. #421	265,000
1133 Columbia Rd.	560,000	1436 Meridian Pl. #406	247,200
226 Elm St.	244,500	1436 Meridian Pl. #204	225,000
901 Euclid St.	77,500	1440 N #205	119,000
2030 Flagler Pl.	315,000	1440 N St. #506	180,000
2202 Flagler Pl.	238,000	1440 N St. #514	120,800
619 Gresham Pl.	150,000	1440 N #1002	124,200
755 Harvard St.	171,623	1445 N St. #103	233,500
1221 Harvard St.	404,500	2130 N St. #104	177,500
730 Hobart Pl.	167,000	2130 N St. #105	165,000
3483 Holmead Pl.	299,500	2130 N St. #106	170,000
3523 Holmead Pl.	336,000	2130 N St. #305	170,000
1418 Hopkins St.	935,000	2130 N St. #307	170,000
1317 Irving St.	599,000	2130 N St. #508	175,000
1327 Irving St.	600,000	2301 N St. #503	425,000
1840 Irving St.	449,500	1330 New Hamp. #620	197,000
651 Keefer Pl.	135,000	1330 New Hamp. #823	230,000
1014 Lamont St.	271,650	1735 New Hamp. #503	501,200
1711 Lamont St.	903,000	1735 New Hamp. #2	314,000
512 M St.	750,000	1816 New Hamp. #302	130,000
600 M St.	519,500	1109 "O" #203	265,000
1520 Marion St.	274,000	1531 P St. #7	381,800
1000 N St.	680,000	1718 P St. #L9	170,000
2125 N St.	370,000	1718 P St. #809	200,000
1936 New Hamp. Ave.	562,000	1718 P St. #815	201,500
3619 New Hamp. Ave.	185,000	1525 Q St. #5	385,000
1647 New Jersey Ave.	220,000	1525 Q St. #8	358,300
2152 Newport Pl.	598,000	1757 Q St. #25	331,500
1716 Newton St.	310,000	70 Rhode Isl. #202	167,000
2306 North Capitol St.	210,500	70 Rhode Isl. #301	157,000
338 Oakdale Pl.	175,000	70 Rhode Isl. #401	220,000
1811 Ontario Pl.	400,000	1437 Rhode Isl. #104	400,000
2225 Ontario Rd.	530,000	1920 S St. #805	290,000
2338 Ontario Rd.	509,000	1 Scott Cir. #321	199,500
1018 Park Rd.	360,000	1 Scott Cir. #813	192,500
1034 Park Rd.	325,000	1 Scott Cir. #814	138,500
224 Q St.	200,000	1820 T St. #1	324,000
453 Q St.	349,000	1239 Vermont Ave. #302	320,000
624 Q St.	339,900	1331 Vermont Ave. #2a	298,000
1350 Quincy St.	175,000	1811 Vernon St. #104	229,900
1826 R St.	3,500,000	2518 13th St. #4	222,000
12 Randolph Pl.	339,000	1626 15th St. #4	239,000
64 Rhode Isl. Ave.	505,000	1520 16th St. #502	375,000
3552 Rock Creek Church Rd.	358,000	1750 16th St. #54	529,000
2614 Sherman	280,000	2000 16th St. #304	249,900
909 T St.	595,000	2008 16th St. #101	273,950
152 Thomas St.	290,000	2440 16th St. #203	130,000
156 U St.	327,000	2440 16th St. #520	270,000
340 U St.	310,000	3426 16th St. #306	215,306
522 U St.	450,000	3426 16th St. #507	377,750
1329 V St.	291,000	1401 17th St. #502	419,000
1612 V St.	500,000	1401 17th St. #801	395,000
41 W St.	475,000	1830 17th St. #305	308,000
146 W St.	300,900	1916 17th St. #406	269,900
407 Warner St.	345,000	1931 17th St. #302	319,250
433 Warner St.	245,000	2526 17th St. #101	285,000
1720 Willard St.	800,000	1325 18th St. #713	229,000
1811 Wiltberger St.	140,000	1545 18th St. #316	239,000
2207 1st St.	365,000	1930 18th St. #35	232,250
1711 4th St.	547,000	2305 18th St. #404	200,000
2243 12th St.	420,000	1601 18th St. #309	170,000
2017 13th St.	390,000	1704 19th St. #10	600,000
3413 13th St.	349,000	1301 20th St. #208	300,000
3602 13th St.	455,000	1733 20th St. #203	287,500
1717 18th St.	930,000	2403 20th St. #1107	483,850
2440 20th St.	865,000	2407 20th St. #98	411,000
1909 23rd St.	1,195,000	2415 20th St. #24	290,000
		2410 20th St. #107	250,000
		2410 20th St. #302	263,000
		1721 21st St. #T3	249,000
		1140 23rd St. #603	370,000

## CONDOMINIUMS

2611 Adams Mill Rd. #402	282,000
2032 Belmont Rd. #215	129,000
2032 Belmont Rd. #325	190,000
2032 Belmont Rd. #405	318,600
1608 Belmont St. #A	442,900
1618 Belmont St. #	449,000
1807 Calif. St. #T3	260,000
1830 Calif. St. #5	280,000
2138 Calif. St. #106	455,000
1801 Calvert St. #506	271,500
1801 Calvert St. #G5	289,000
1812 Calvert St. #B	260,000
1415 Chapin St. #101	225,000
1417 Chapin St. #501	319,000
1420 Clifton St. #302	260,000
1308 Clifton St. #201	355,000
1421 Columbia Rd. #103	160,000
1421 Columbia Rd. #301	205,000
1851 Columbia Rd. #707	279,000
2022 Columbia #306	445,000
2022 Columbia #114/116	749,000
2126 Conn. Ave. #44	790,000
2126 Conn. Ave. #66	699,000
1605 Corcoran St. #A	235,000

## COOPERATIVES

2605 Adams Mill Rd. #1	450,000
1840 Biltmore St. #34	417,500
2122 California St. #458	217,325
2370 Champlain St. #33	569,000
1801 Clydesdale Pl. #110	185,000
1801 Clydesdale Pl. #222	145,000
1801 Clydesdale Pl. #517	122,000
1661 Crescent Pl. #202	470,000
1661 Crescent Pl. #509	369,000
2540 Mass. Ave. #208	690,000
1514 17th St. #103	125,000
1514 17th St. #512	140,000
1526 17th St. #316	330,000
1731 20th St. #5	181,700
2220 20th St. #65	359,000
1200 23rd St. #711	400,000

\*Jo Ricks is Associate Broker at City Houses in Washington, DC. The sales shown here were handled by various agents from the many real estate brokerage firms actively working in the neighborhoods reported on by this newspaper.

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## 2233 13TH ST NW • LOGAN

\$449,223

Circa 1892 home that offers old world details. Three bedrooms, One and a half baths with fenced yard, potential parking. Includes hardwood floors, moldings, high ceilings, stain glass transoms and more. Eat-in kitchen, formal dining, radiation heat, window A/C. Needs TLC. For more information on this property please call Edward and Stewart 202-939-1220.



## 2011 COLUMBIA RD, NW #5 • KALORAMA

\$459,000  
Stylish 1200 sq ft, Penthouse level condo with incredible private roofdeck. One bedroom plus den. Eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, W/D, Cathedral ceilings, huge skylight, contemporary fireplace, built-in bookshelves. 5 unit building. For more information on this property please call Edward and Stewart 202-939-1220.



## 2426 I STREET, NW • FOGGY BOTTOM

UNDER CONTRACT  
\$570,000

Lovely stone exterior leads to an oversized living room with fireplace and built-bookshelves, hardwood floors, and sun filled rooms. Huge master bedroom suite overlooks private garden. This wide rowhouse is and older but well done renovation. For more information on this property please call Edward and Stewart 202-939-1217.



## 1238 CRITTENDEN STREET, NW

16TH STREET HEIGHTS  
UNDER CONTRACT  
\$539,000

Huge four bedroom, three and a half bath home with three car garage and fenced yard, plus and In-law suite. 90% complete. Generous sized rooms, Granite counter top, stainless steel appliances & radiant heat floors in kitchen, 3 zoned heat & air.

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**Steve Dean & John McClaren** 202-326-1010



**Kalamora \$599,000**  
Charming newer 2 BR + den, 2.5 ba on three levels. Private rooftop, one car garage, hardwood flrs. A must see.

**Jon Frutkin** 202-326-1010



**Columbia Heights \$244,500**  
Brand new 1 bedroom + den condo. A view of the courtyard.  
**Jon Frutkin** 202-326-1010



**Capitol Hill \$474,900**  
Beautiful Victorian, 2br, 1.5 ba, hwfls, kitchen w/ cherry cabinets & stainless steel appliances. Large deck and 1-car garage.

**Tom Buerger** 202-326-1010



**LeDroit Park \$399,000**  
3 level row house. 3 br, 2 ba. Fireplace, large MBR w/ 2 person Jacuzzi tub, & separate shower. Large yard.

**Monique Owens** 202-326-1010

*Real Estate*

## Tip #31

**Two mortgages are cheaper than one if you have only 5% to 10% to put down.**

Private mortgage insurance (PMI) makes it possible to put less than 20% down, but adds to your monthly mortgage payment. An alternative that will actually cost you less each month is to take out two mortgages – a 1st mortgage for 80% and a 2nd mortgage for the rest of the amount you need to finance (certain qualifications apply). An added bonus is that the interest payments on the 2nd mortgage may be tax-deductible, while PMI payments are not.

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New Listing  
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**Mount Pleasant \$209,000**  
Great 1 BR condo, with w/d in unit. Across from a park.  
**John McLaren or Steve Dean** 202-326-1010



**Hillcrest \$230,000**  
Detached 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 fireplaces, 1-car garage and large yard.

**Daymon Anderson** 202-326-1010



**Embassy Row/Kalamora \$1,900,000**  
Classic facade belies expansive, open floorplan. Ambassadorial gem, ideal for grand scale entertaining, inside and out. Includes guest suite, garage, extra parking.  
**Julio Alberto** 202-326-1300



**Cleveland Park \$270,000**  
This is a large, sunny 1 bedroom condo. 1 block to metro

**Eric Clarke** 202-326-1100



**Kalamora \$199,000**  
Chic SoHo-style studio w/full-size kitchen, wall of closets, and designer bath w/whirlpool! Small pets OK!

**Judi Levin & Peggy Farris** 202-326-1300



**American Univ. Park \$535,000**  
Metro 1 block! Unique opportunity to update this solid 3BR brick Colonial. 1-year Home Warranty.

**Peggy Virostek** 202-326-1300



**Colonial Village \$1,100,000**  
Overlooks Rock Creek Park! 23-year-old Stately Colonial—the advantages of youth, with the state-liness of yesteryear — including library, fam. room, extravagant master suite, and park views!

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202-326-1010



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