

Talks on Herndon Housing

The racial disturbances that followed Felix Rorls' death on Aug. 22 pointed up some problems in the low and middle income apartment complexes on Herndon's southern edge. Those apartments and the facilities available there were subjects also brought up at last Thursday's meeting in Herndon.

Once the questions regarding how the county was handling the Mueller case had been settled, or at least brought up (see related story),

the meeting turned to housing and recreation.

Apparently, many of the residents of the Herndon Gardens and Dulles Park apartments feel there aren't enough recreational facilities nearby. They feel the owners of the apartments, the town of Herndon, or the county should provide some. Both Dulles Park and Herndon Gardens are a short distance away from the 7-11 where Rorls was shot and the Dulles Park

Shopping Center, the scene of the rock and bottle throwing and firebombing incidents the same night.

Residents in the apartments listed suggestions for improvements, such as lights on the rear of the buildings, barbecue pits, common areas, patios, a community building, and possibly a community bus to give people a way to go places if they don't have any transportation. "We

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result in a written agreement between all parties.

The negotiations will delve into the formation of a Police Advisory Commission, minority recruitment of police officers, an examination of police procedure in the use of firearms, police training, the formation of an effective police-community relations program, and the possibility of multi-racial police teams.

The negotiations are mediated by Martin A. Walsh, an operations officer in the Justice Department's Community Relations service, who says the meetings may last up to a year or more and have been successful in other localities in establishing dialogue between police and community.

The meetings are closed, Walsh said, and have proved helpful in "doing away with misunderstandings."

Meanwhile, the county's recreation department announced a new \$18,000 program to expand the recreational program at Herndon Intermediate School, and a \$12,000 program to provide lighting on the school's basketball courts.

Other programs, according to County Executive Robert W. Wilson are still under consideration and include upgraded employment outreach, and better delivery of health services, but transportation remains "a complex issue" in the Herndon area.

Voter registrars will also come to the Herndon library from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursdays and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays to enable residents to register to vote.

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New Town Agenda Keynote Panel Focuses on "Gaps" Between Concepts and Realities

The underlying theme of the keynote panel at Reston Black Focus' conference two weeks ago -- New Town Agenda: Concepts and Realities -- was that there are "gaps" between what was anticipated and what is.

That gap is apparent in a host of expectations unrealized, dreams deferred, and they include such diverse elements as a widow with children, the developer, a black educator, a new communities consultant and a government program administrator.

Elias Blake, a long-time resident of Reston, set the tone with his keynote address: Montage of a Dream Deferred, based on a Langston Hughes poem of the same title. Blake warned that while the town is new, "inertia" could permit old patterns to emerge. He cited a need for blacks to become a political influence in the new town, but noted that realities demand a 15 percent population of blacks to make an impact. Blake noted that "fortunes are to be made here," that "some of these fortunes must involve blacks."

Blake asked when there would be black salespeople, black executives in Gulf Reston, noting a striking difference between Gulf's sales force and that of Wellborn Properties, Inc. Blake said that for blacks to be part of the economic development, they must be part of the largest economic development, that is, Gulf Reston. Insensitivity toward blacks in the Fairfax County Schools, saying that black children have problems of self-identity reinforced by the curriculum and selection of textbooks. "We're still searching," Blake said, "for ways education can be a force we don't have to watch."

Saying that the cultural - social aspects of new town life should reflect the impact of blacks, themes out of black life, Blake said that the planning process requires a careful look at the nature and quality of life. "Black Americans always end up being the test, the protagonist" with regard to questions of nature and quality of life. Blake tied the presence of "tension" which emerges from special problems confronting blacks to ultimate

benefits to the entire community. He cited open enrollment at the State University of New York as an example, noting that with open enrollment, the anticipation was that there would be a great rush of blacks to the University. Sixty-six percent of the new enrollees, however, turned out to be non-black, with 34 percent black and Puerto Rican. The black community's confronting issues of quality of life, Blake emphasized, results in uncovering needs neglected in the community at large.

Robert Coles, a black Buffalo architect, called new towns a "search for the good life in the country." Coles said that "you can't enjoy the good life in Reston until you do something about the life in D.C. and Baltimore." "You can't escape D.C. and Baltimore," said Coles: "your total freedom will be limited."

Coles cited as one of the shortcomings of new towns, including Reston and Riverton (in Rochester) the great lack of low and moderate income housing, a theme carried on by Sarah Short Austin

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Police On Tenterhooks

by Joseph Gatins

It's business-as-usual and business-as-not-so-usual in the Fairfax County Police Department which remains at the center of a controversy including charges, counter charges, investigations, a reorganization, and debate over the fatal shooting of a Herndon man by a policeman.

The scene at police

headquarters this week was outwardly routine. Secretaries were coming back on the job after a Labor day vacation. The policeman and policewoman on patrol joked about week-end checks at area drive-in movies.

On Tuesday, workmen were tearing up the Chief's office as part of a \$4,500 remodeling effort in the headquarters building. The

Chief himself, Col. William L. Durrer, was briefly in town for a county staff meeting that day but departed in the afternoon for a Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police convention in Charlottesville, according to a subordinate. Nothing out of the ordinary.

Beneath the surface, however, is a department still on tenterhooks because of two separate investigations into wrongdoing and possible corruption by officers and their superiors in the department; a rank and file still upset by what they consider to be unequal past promotion policies; a department waiting to see if a current reorganization will do anything more than raise expectations; and finally, a department waiting to hear if one of their own will be cleared or disciplined in the shooting of a Herndon man whose death touched off a night of rioting two weeks ago.

Neither investigation — a criminal corruption probe by Commonwealth's Attorney Robert F. Horan Jr., and an investigation into administrative wrongdoing on the part of Chief Durrer conducted by the county — have yet reported any findings.

According to Deputy Chief Col. Richard A. King, the police are waiting for these results prior to holding a trial board for two police investigators whose refusal to answer questions by superiors concerning corruption, and subsequent suspension for insubordina-

tion, touched off the investigations.

A Fairfax County Police Association shrimp and crab feast last Friday night looked about like any other good party.

Beer flowed, raffle tickets were sold, a card game was on in the back room and people wore things like tee shirts with a Pepsi Cola symbol but "Peyote" written where "Pepsi" should have been.

It was all very ordinary except that John Mueller,

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31, the officer on administrative leave pending a Horan probe into his fatal shooting of a Herndon man two weeks ago, was the center of a lot of attention and a "whip up support" for Mueller campaign.

According to Horan, who was present at the party, a retired police captain mentioned "taking care of our boy" but, says Horan, "it isn't my business" to protect individual policemen, but to serve the county as a whole.

Horan said he is waiting for lab reports on the shooting before making a decision in the Mueller case.

Good food and fellowship held out but the talk — as at most parties — inevitably turned to shop.

A policeman echoed the often repeated complaint that promotions in the department were parceled out along illogical lines, without set criteria or well-defined promotional policies. Another — both asked not to be identified — complained that a reorganization of the department suggested by a private consultant last spring had raised expectations of 144 promotions but that the reorganization now put on line by the county staff had resulted in only six advancements.

Past promotions, he said, appeared to have been based on "how well a policeman knew the chief". The officer added that the men and women of the department needed more in-service training.

Another problem bothering policemen and officials outside the department is the question of how much the surfacing of allegations at this time are due to heightened activity by the Teamsters Union which represents the police privates.

An attorney for the two investigators still on suspension for insubordination says the charge is unfounded rumor. While not a union lawyer, the attorney had previously been retained by the Teamsters to represent several police detectives who were returned, illegally, they said, to uniform duty early in 1974.

While there is no evidence of the Fairfax police's Teamsters local being involved in any wrongdoing, a lengthy investigative report published in The Globe early this summer linked the Teamsters' Central States Pension Fund to some of the more questionable investments of the country's organized crime network.

Deputy Chief King talked this week of a Watergate-inspired mood of suspicion. Officers involved in or close to the investigations counter that the wrongdoing has gone on for too long, and that the union may now well be able to support officers who previously would not have come forth with evidence or knowledge of departmental corruption and cronyism.

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Shooting Discussed in Herndon

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administrative leave is still paid, but he is stripped of his authority as a police officer. He is not returned to duty until his case has been resolved.

The crowd was somewhat frustrated by the absence of Horan, the man who could have provided answers to many of their questions. Apparently, many of the people felt there was little need for an investigation, and if there was one, it should have been decided much sooner.

Mona Head, representing the National Council of Negro Women, questioned the department's policy of placing an officer on administrative leave, instead of suspending him after such an incident.

"When a man's shot five times and he's dead, don't you suspend him (the officer)?" she asked King.

King explained again the department's policy. King said that the procedure was not unique to Fairfax County, but was used in a lot of other police departments.

What if the officer uses his revolver? she asked.

King explained that the law allows a police officer to defend himself with his service revolver if he decides his life is threatened.

Doug Harmon, deputy county executive, added that the Mueller incident had caused the county to review its firearms training for police.

Did Mueller have to shoot five times? Mrs. Head asked.

Harmon said a decision like that was a matter of the officer's judgment. He indicated that in such an incident, where a struggle was going on, there would be a great deal of confusion, just as there would be in combat in a war. Judgments as to how many shots to take would also be made in the midst of such confusion, he said.

Earlier in the meeting, Thomas Rorls, Felix Rorls' older brother, angrily denounced the length of time it was taking for the county to decide what to do about the case. "I'm tired. I want something done about my brother," he said, shouting at King, Harmon, and Jean Packard, Chairperson of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

"If I'd killed you, I'd be in jail, and this man (Mueller) is running around free," he said. "I'm tired of the runaround," he said before walking out. "I want justice."

Before he left the building, Rorls waved a large manila envelope in the air, and indicated that inside it, he had pictures of his brother's body, showing showing the bullet holes in his stomach and right arm. "I got pictures of the bullet holes in my brother, and his face split open like that," he said. He threatened to "release them to the newspaper," he said, if the county didn't arrive at a decision about the case in two days. "I'm tired," he said, "and I want something done about my brother."

Earlier in the evening, representatives of the Fairfax Community Action Committee circulated copies of a petition they had drawn up. The petition requested that the Mueller case be sent to the grand jury immediately, that more minority group members be hired for the Herndon and Fairfax County police forces, and that police officers be trained in race relations.

In addition, it asked that the county establish a Police Advisory Commission, or a police review board. As specified in the petition, the board would "review procedures now being used to deal with a police officer who has committed a possible criminal violation." It would also investigate complaints of "police misconduct" and make recommendations to the County Executive about possible criminal violations by any policeman in the county.

Robert Wright, a Fairfax lawyer who was assisting FCAP, said later that the petition was a "summary of what the people were thinking." He said the committee hadn't worked out the details of the proposal. Furthermore, there was still some question about whether Virginia state law would allow such a board to have any enforcement powers, rather than mere advisory functions.

At the outset of the meeting, Wright said he and Reston attorney Jeffrey Krause were studying Herndon's loitering ordinance. Wright said they had concluded that it was "overly broad" and "too vague," and that they were seeking to challenge its legality.

Apparently they took issue with

the loitering ordinance because they claimed it was applied unfairly and, he said later, "at the convenience of the (Herndon) police." He added that the loitering ordinance had a "chilling effect on the people's right to assembly."

Herndon's loitering ordinance makes it illegal to "loiter, loaf, or idle" on any public property or any place open to the public between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. It also prohibits "standing idly by, loafing, walking about aimlessly without purpose," as well as refusing to move when requested by a police officer.

Wright said he was seeking a declaratory judgment in court, which would void the statute. If he couldn't get that, he said he would try to get a test case and challenge the law that way.

Robert Noe, town manager of Herndon, said the loitering ordinance was still valid in Herndon, but that it was under review by the town council. He explained the town's procedures for changing the ordinance, including the requirement for holding a public hearing, and advertising it in newspapers. He invited those who wanted it changed to attend the town's council meetings.

Low Income Housing Has Limited Facilities

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need someplace legitimate outside and something to do outside so the police won't harass us and run out the loitering ordinance," one woman said.

Joseph Gildenhorn, owner of Dulles Park and the Dulles Park Shopping Center, listened at all the suggestions, and said he would think about them. He claimed the development had "many vacancies" and that it was "running at a loss."

Gildenhorn said the original plans for the federally assisted development included the availability of recreational facilities. Those plans had been approved by the federal government before the apartments were built.

Both Dulles Park and Herndon Gardens were built in the late 1960's with assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Because they were financed with federal money, HUD approved the plans, and today, rents charged to some tenants depend upon income level and family size, according to federal guidelines.

Eugene Schneider, of the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development, commented that sometimes HUD budgetary requirements limit what a developer can do. "The federal minimum property standards can be very minimum," he said.

By comparison, Schneider said, Fairfax County has developed its own minimum standards for housing the county leases, buys, or builds. Because they are the county's standards, they don't necessarily apply to federally approved housing built in the county. He noted that they are above the federal standards, at least by comparison with the federal standards in effect when Dulles Park

was approved.

For example, in a three bedroom apartment, the county standard for the master bedroom is a minimum of 138 square feet of floor space. In Dulles Park, the master bedroom in a three bedroom apartment has 118 sq. ft. In the second bedroom, the county standard is 120 sq. ft. In Dulles Park, it is 84 sq. ft. The county standard for a dining area is 220 sq. ft. In Dulles Park, it is 191 sq. ft.

In response to more questions about recreational facilities, Gildenhorn said the federal government had approved his original plans for the totlots on the sites. He said he would consider building a playground if he could get some federal assistance to build it.

Robert Noe, the town manager of Herndon, said the nearest public recreation facility to Dulles Park and Herndon Gardens was Lake Fairfax, which is about three miles away. Noe said the town looks to the county to provide recreational facilities, but that there was \$10,000 in this year's budget to supplement the county's recreation programs. Aside from that, Noe said, the town of Herndon didn't support recreation at all.

In response to a question about an indoor recreational facility in Herndon, Doug Harmon, deputy County Executive, said those who want such a facility should bring their proposals to the board of supervisors.

Gildenhorn said his property manager, John Walsh, had tried to set up tenant associations to deal with these problems, but they hadn't succeeded. He said there had been a number of looting and burglary incidents at Dulles Park since the Rorls shooting, and that if the project was to be a decent place to live, they needed "the cooperation of the Dulles Park tenants."



Reston Times Staff Photo

Fairfax County's Centreville Supervisor Martha Pennino introduces Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass), honorary host at a fund raiser for Joseph Fisher, Democratic candidate for the 10th Congressional District.

Williams To Keynote Transportation Forum

Virginia Delegate Carrington Williams (D-18th) has agreed to be the keynote speaker at a Transportation Symposium scheduled in Reston the evening of September 17.

The Symposium, to be held beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Reston Sheraton, is being jointly sponsored by the Reston Commuter Bus, Inc. and the Reston Community Association.

Also featured during the discussion of local transportation issues will be a panel composed of Fairfax County Supervisors Martha V. Pennino (D-Centreville) and Rufus Phillips (D-Dranesville), and representatives from the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Fairfax County staff, and Gulf Reston, Inc.

According to the Symposium coordinators, RCA's Ed Herlihy and RCB's Dennis Fischer, the meeting is being called to:

--Examine transportation issues as they relate to Reston and surrounding areas;

--Bring together government decision makers, transportation experts, civic leaders and concerned citizens to focus on transportation;

--And, provide current information to the community on the status of key transportation issues.

The Symposium will be organized into four consecutive segments. Each will address a particular aspect of transportation as it relates to the area. Each segment will include presentations from "resource" organizations followed by a question and answer session involving the select panel and the general audience.

"Intra Community Mass Transit" will be the first topic discussed. Presentations will be led by Jim Miles of the Common Ground Foundation and Bob Becker from Fairfax City's Dial-A-Ride project. The intent is to examine how to provide mass transit within a geographic community.

Second on the agenda will be the topic: "The Highway Outlook." A representative from the Virginia Department of Highways' Office of Transportation Planning has been invited to lead this segment. Discussion will include issues such as: the proposed parallel commuter lanes along the Dulles Access Road; the proposed Outer Beltway; the plans for dual-laning Reston Avenue; and the local roadway system.

Earl Long from the Metro Planning Office will speak on the subject of "Metro Rail (Subway)." His talk will include a progress report on the

Still Time To Join Spain Trip

The Reston Community Association (RCA) has decided to find out once and for all what authentic Sangria tastes like.

To accomplish this task, it is sending a minimum of 40 RCA members and their immediate families as emissaries to Spain from October 21-31. As a gesture of good faith, these emissaries are being asked to pay a special cut rate fee that covers plane fare and hotel reservations.

The entire expedition includes round trip jet transportation via Iberia Airlines from Dulles to Madrid to Costa Del Sol to Dulles. Participants will spend three nights at the Four Star Agumar or Florida Norte Hotel in Madrid, six nights at the Four Star Las Piramides Hotel on the Costa Del Sol, be served continental breakfasts and dinners daily on the coast.

They can also enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Madrid and Costa Del Sol, a welcome Sangria party on Costa Del Sol, round trip transfers and all baggage handling, a hospitality desk with a full program of optional tours, and tour escorts throughout.

In order to take advantage of the special rate, all travelers must take the same flights and stay in the same hotels. However, they do not have to join any tours or events they do not wish to, nor drink any more Sangria than they need.

Reservations are due by September 21. For

Carter, Candidate

The faithful turned out dressed to the nines to attend a reception for Joe Fisher, Democratic Candidate in the 10th District Congressional race Thursday, September 5, at Solona, the McLean home of state Senator Clive DuVal, (D-32nd).

Although 300 were expected, close to 700 appeared and the only missing person was Fisher, home in bed with an injured back. However, speeches by Fairfax County Board Supervisor Martha Pennino (Centreville), Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia and U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy seemed to make up for Fisher's absence.

It was not an evening of substantive debate. Rather it was the genteel political version of the football locker room pep talk with famous faces endorsing the candidate and their spouse making cameo appearance. Enthusiasm ran high with much agreement that this would be a "great year for the Democrats!"

Carter's comment touched on Fisher setting contribution ceilings and releasing his financial statement, and the suggestion that, while problems like inflation and shortages can't be solved instantly, people like Fisher can insure that those on fixed and low incomes don't bear the brunt of the solutions. He also noted that the change in president wasn't going to hurt any Democratic candidate "unless they were foolish enough to depend on Watergate for the campaigns." Carter opined

Players For Fall

Want to be Lady being her secret?

The Reston Community hold auditions this first production of "Audley's Secret" from 8 to 11 p.m. (tonight) in Brown's p.m. on Saturday, September 5, 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 6.

The cast will include women. Anyone technical, box office the Community register at the information, call Irene

Artist Aides

The Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Council of the Arts will be offering the excellent training program for volunteer artist aides in Fairfax County elementary

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FBI Enters Case

by Joseph Gatins

The U.S. Department of Justice asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation this week "to make certain inquiries" into the shooting of a black man by a white Fairfax County police officer in Herndon four weeks ago.

According to Frank E. Allen, deputy chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, the "inquiries" were requested after a complaint — alleging a violation of the dead man's civil rights under the 1964 Civil Rights Act — was filed with the Justice Department by the NAACP, the Springdale Civic Association, the Fairfax Countywide Black Citizens Association, and the Fairfax County Police Committee, some of which are apparently ad-hoc groups formed following the shooting.

Meanwhile, a Fairfax County grand jury unanimously ruled last Thursday that Felix Rorls' fatal shooting by Officer John Mueller, 31, was "justifiable homicide."

Mueller, who went on annual leave after the grand jury decision, will return to active duty after his vacation. According to unofficial police reports, Mueller will be placed in the department's communication section.

The shooting, which occurred on Aug. 22 when Mueller attempted to arrest Rorls on a traffic violation, touched off a night of disturbance in Herndon and has since caused county and Herndon town officials to meet with the residents — many of them black, many

of them of low income — who feel they are not being provided equal services by official agencies.

Committees have been formed by the residents of two apartment projects in Herndon located near the site of last month's rioting. The county's Human Services Task Force has held weekly meetings to discuss the Herndon situation and this week a county-wide group of Fairfax citizens and

their advisors began meeting with Herndon and Fairfax County police officials under the auspices of a federal mediator to discuss possible changes in the police departments.

The Citizens Committee of Fairfax County, an ad hoc group of interested citizens, and the police officials have made a six-point memorandum the basis for negotiations which should

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