

**i am wtop-tv. i grew up here.**



The ability of a broadcast organization to serve its community is in large part the product of a continuing dialog between the people who are employed by that organization and the people who comprise that community. The process of discovering "people issues" is called ascertainment: It is accomplished face to face. One on one. For this reason, the following narrative is presented in the first person singular. The quotations cited make no claim to verbatim accuracy. Rather, they are an attempt to reflect in substance the concerns and feelings revealed in our continuing dialog with the people who live here.



It's a short ride up Connecticut from Adams-Morgan to the station, but I'd rather walk. I'm comfortable here. I've got friends. They know me and I like that. Go too fast and you lose that sense of being connected, if you know what I mean.

I've seen the others, shuttling in for coffee-and-donut meetings at National. I've seen them making picture postcards through the windows of tourbusses. Or waiting in the background while their kids run up the hill to find American history. I've heard them at parties in Potomac and late at night in Georgetown cafes. Me, I know better. I grew up here.

You can see it all from this rise of land. Virginia and Maryland. Down through the riot corridor to the monuments of government and beyond to Anacostia. The place has changed. There's a picture of how it was on the wall over there. The guy who took it, he's gone now. Some of us are still around.



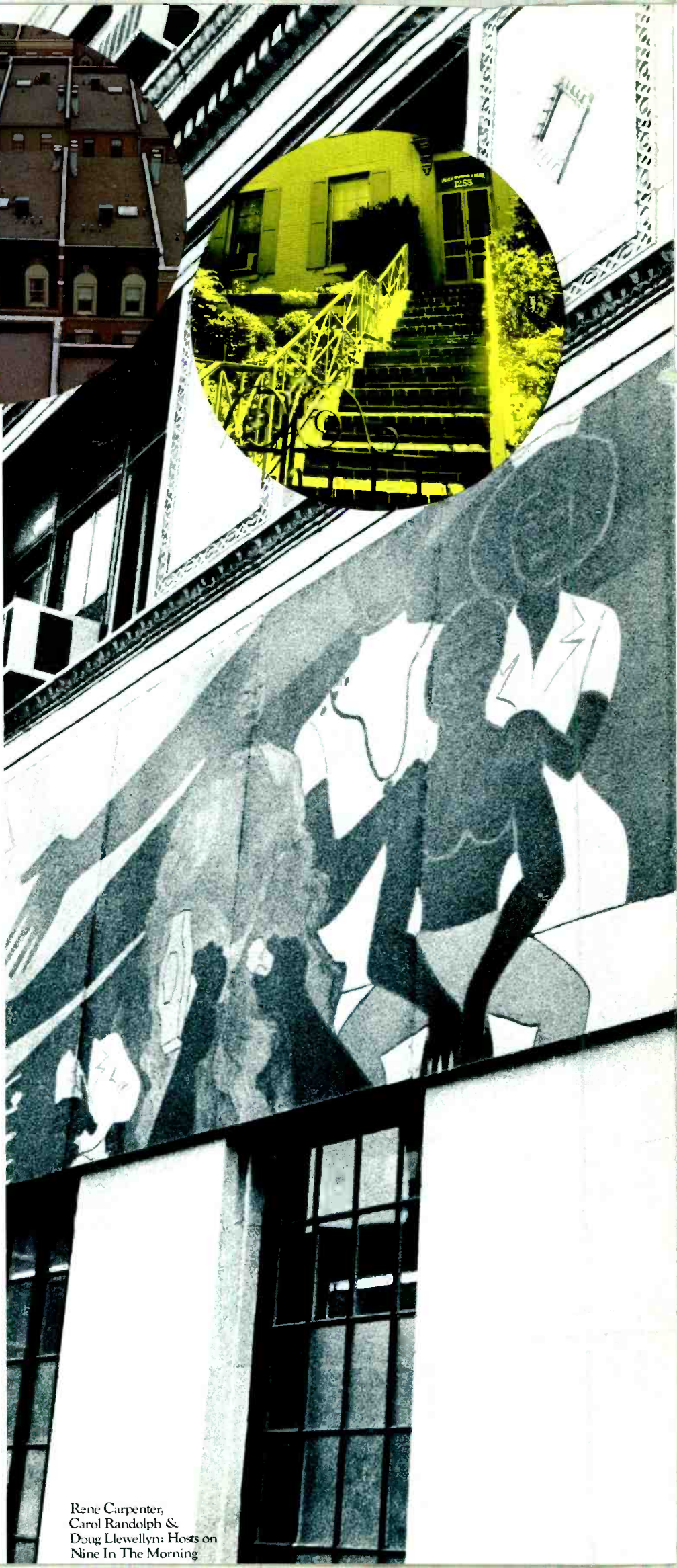
Sunlight and dogwood, breakfast in Cleveland Park. The woman orders croissants and fresh orange juice. "For a black person," she says, "this is the only city. The only city in the world. This is home." Something jangles. I remember a conversation in Silver Spring. "Blacks have no voice here," a young man tells me. "The power structure sees us as an irritant in the county's way of life."

It makes you think.

Nine in the morning and two cups of coffee later. Carol Randolph is talking to a guy from the District Rent Control Commission. Housing is a complicated issue here. I've heard both sides. An investment broker on Pennsylvania Avenue talks about rising operating costs and the bottom line. He's worried. A woman on Alabama Avenue talks about deteriorating maintenance and services. She's worried too. Another woman tells me about developers evicting the poor and the elderly to remodel and sell their houses.

Nine in the morning. It's early to think about things like that. Or maybe it's late.

Rene Carpenter,  
Carol Randolph &  
Doug Llewellyn: Hosts on  
Nine In The Morning

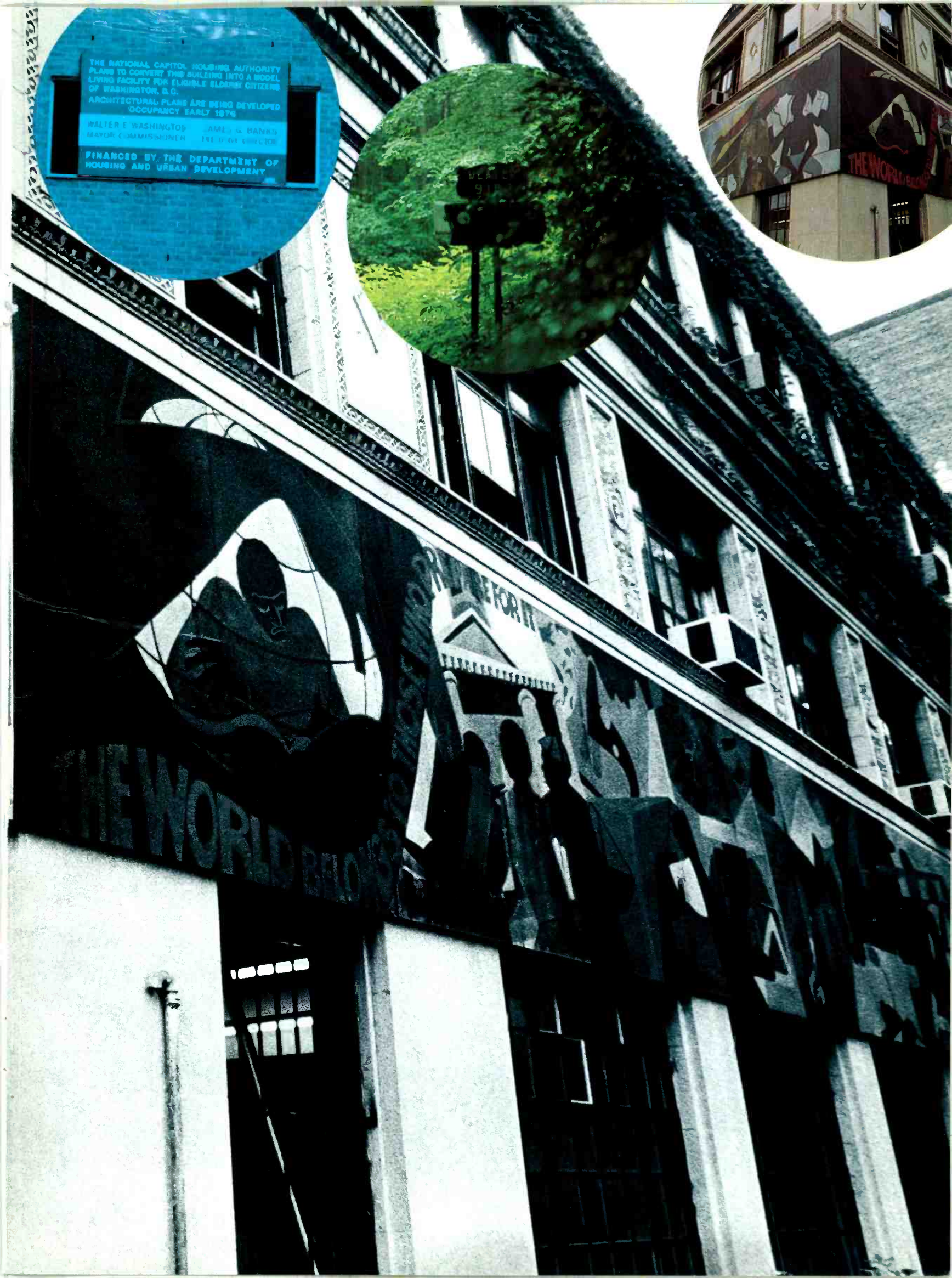


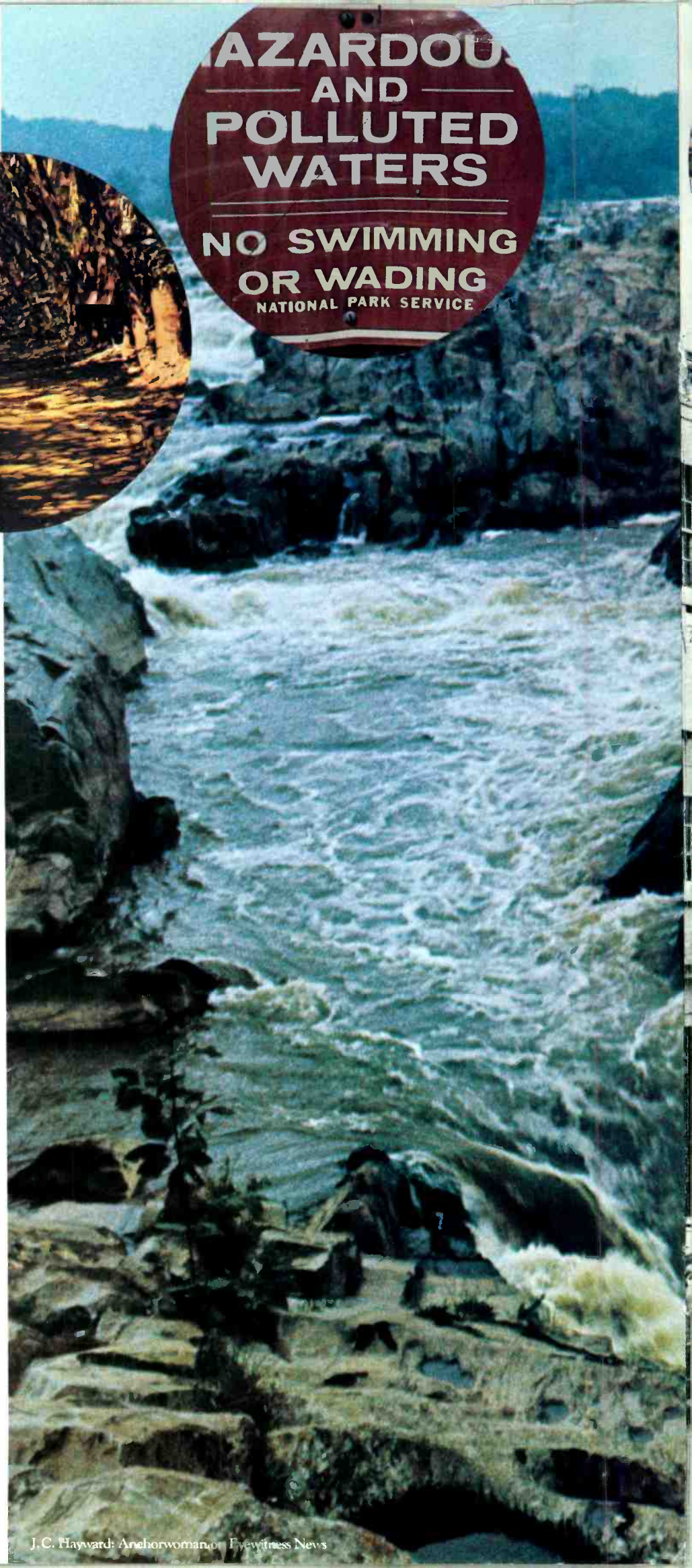
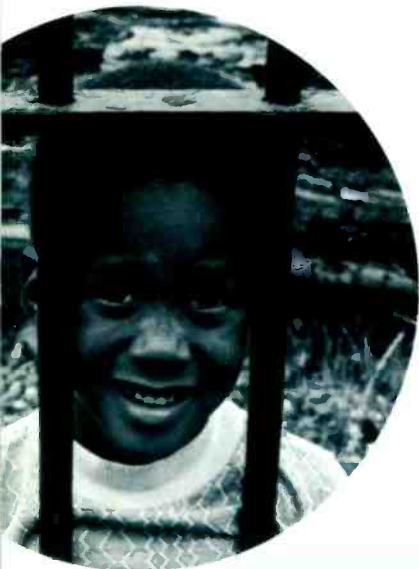
THE NATIONAL CAPITAL HOUSING AUTHORITY  
PLANS TO CONVERT THIS BUILDING INTO A MODEL  
LIVING FACILITY FOR ELIGIBLE ELDERS CITIZENS  
OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS ARE BEING DEVELOPED  
OCCUPANCY EARLY 1976

WALTER E WASHINGTON     2ND & BANKS  
MAYOR COMMISSIONER     1ST FLOOR BUILDING

FINANCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

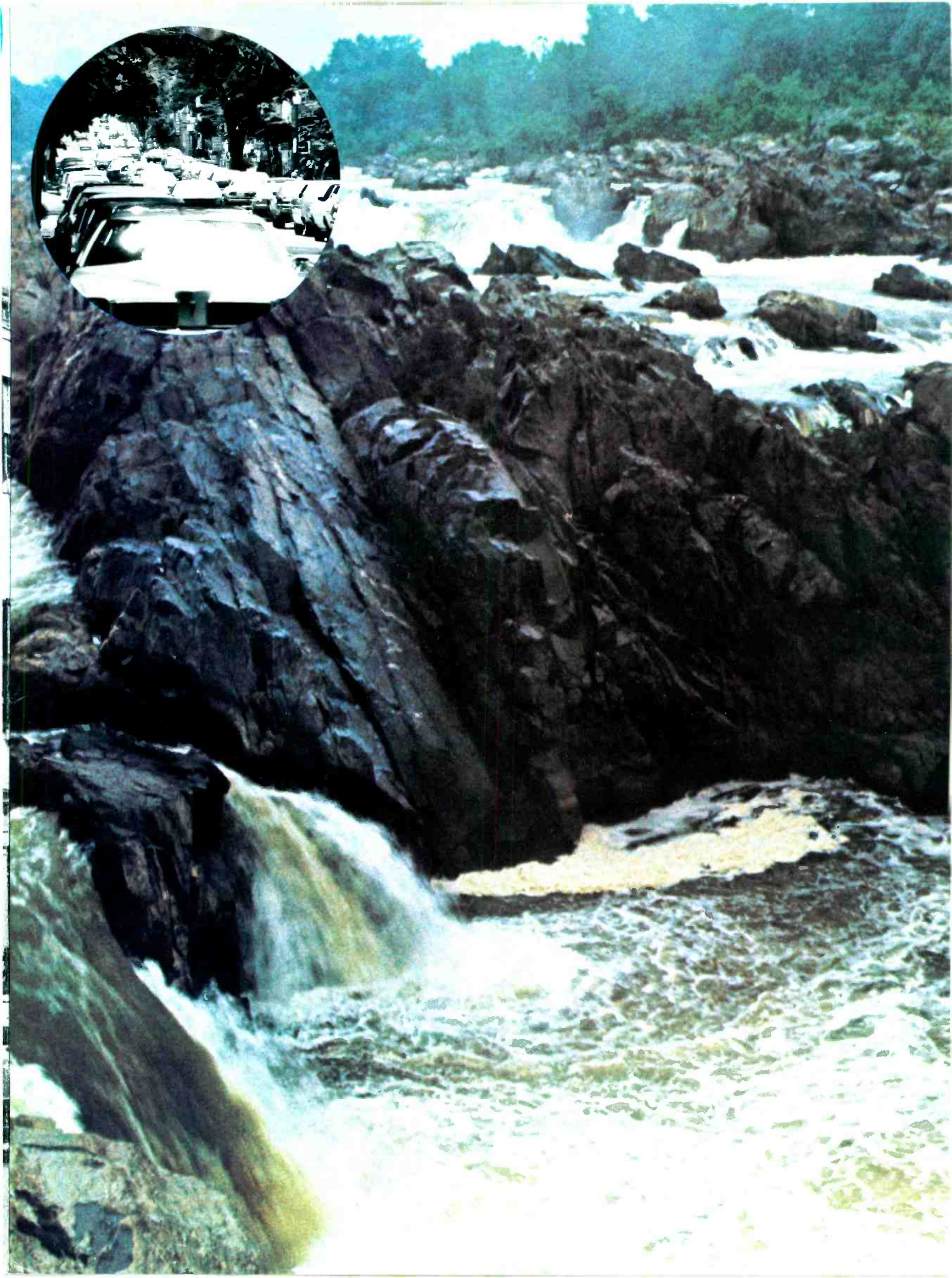


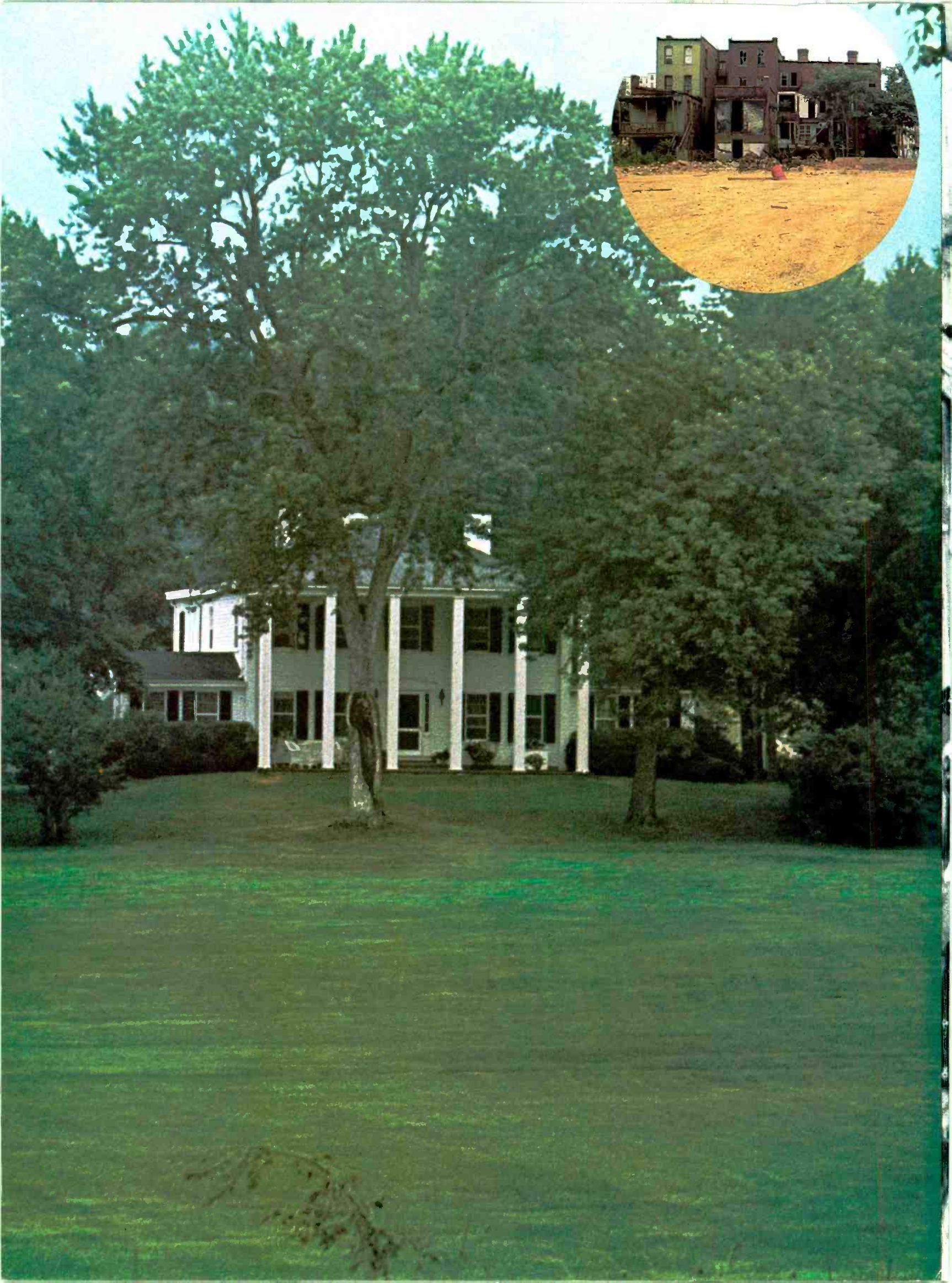


You pick up the Leesburg Pike at Tyson's Corner and go west past Goose Creek. These hills should hang on walls, lush green under white billowing clouds in Spring, nutbrown in the Fall. Loudoun County is the kind of beautiful you feel. That's the problem. "People come out here to escape the population," a woman says. "But everyone wants to be the last one in."

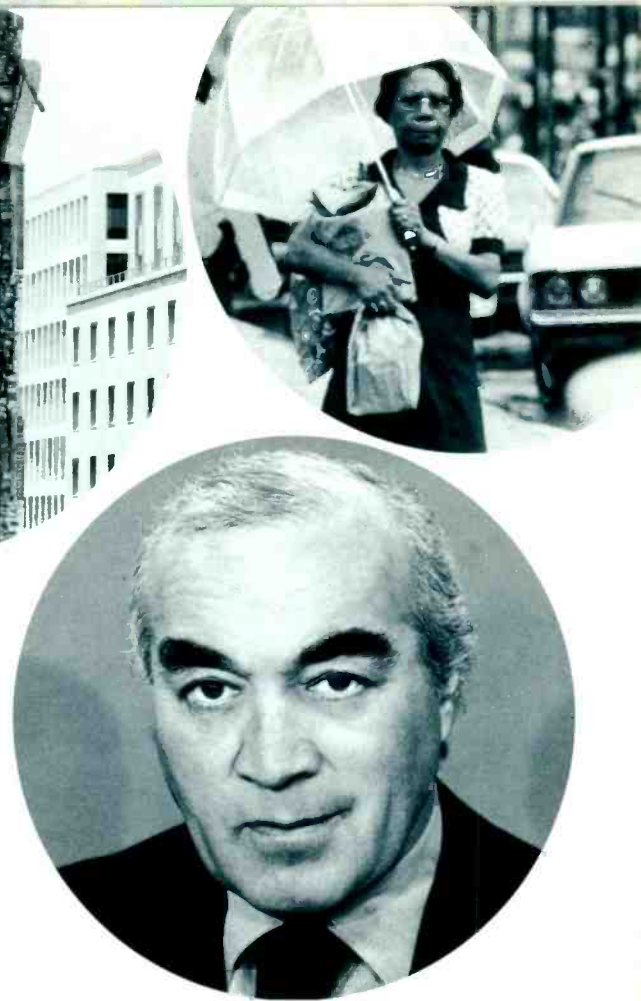
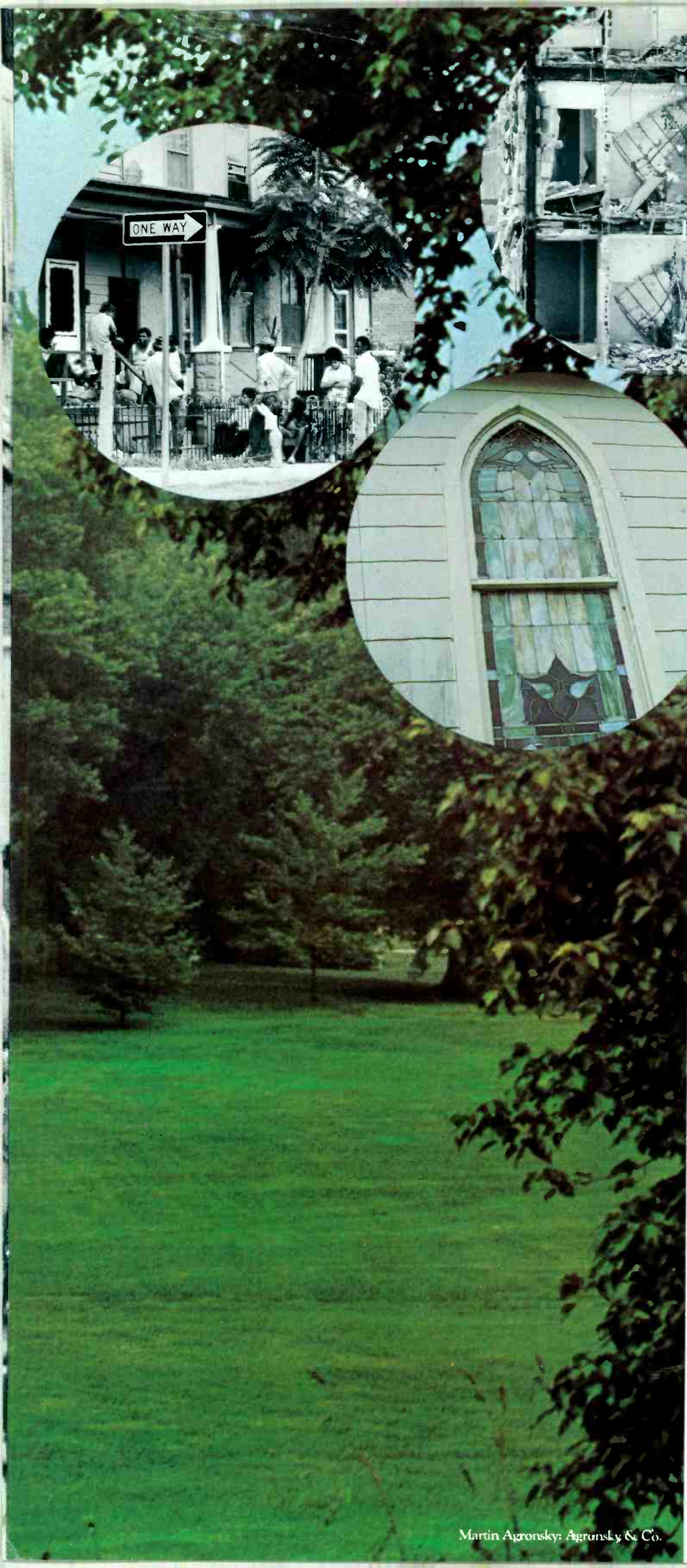
Growth is what they talk about here. Too much and too fast. The people have a problem and the problem has two sides. You can see that. You hope they can, too.

An elected official talks about the need for a "community conscience." It's a good word. I like the implications. I'm still thinking about it as the pavement of Lacy Boulevard turns to dirt short of the fence that separates Springdale from Dowden Terrace. "Sometimes I feel we get lost," a black homeowner tells me.









Saturday night in Montgomery County. Dinner is late as usual. Everyone's home watching Agronsky. There's a sense of being at the center of things here. There's a need to understand the perimeters.

The drink is white wine and cassis tonight. The subject is rape. A few years ago, they didn't talk about that kind of thing out here. "More violent crimes are committed against women than any other group," a woman says. Someone mentions a new book put out by the county's police department. It talks about rape and the victim's rights. "It's very good," she says.

A judge talks about juvenile crime and the lack of resources to deal with the problem. The frustration goes both ways. I remember a young man in College Park. He's worried about crime, too. "Unemployment is where it starts," he says. "A man has to do what's necessary to feed his family."

You wonder what's necessary. You think about the things people do. Ask Max. Ask Gordon. They'll tell you. They wonder, too.



18th and Columbia Road. They speak Spanish here. I'm trying but it's still not easy. I should try harder. In my line of work it's important. A man tells me about the time he witnessed a crime in Langley Park. Only he didn't call the police. He couldn't. He had to wait for his daughter to come home to translate.

It's like that.

A woman talks about the handicapped. She's angry. Their rights are being systematically denied, she says. I know. Good intentions aren't enough, she says. I'm trying. "I remember the program you did on Town Meeting," she says. I remember, too. The guests had to come up the delivery ramp.

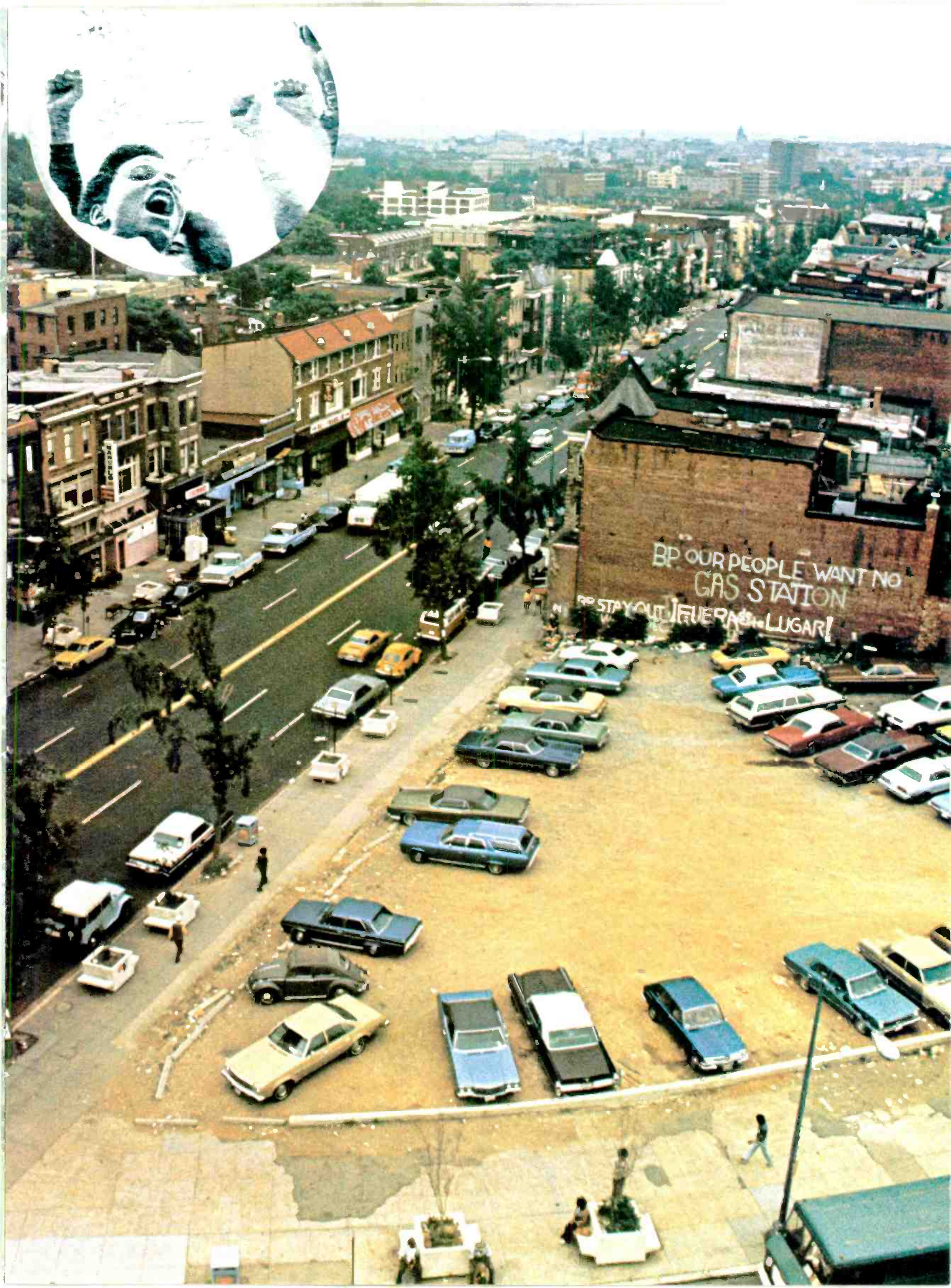
It's like that.

I see what's happening to the children here. I know about the way things are in schoolrooms and in the corridors after class. I talk with the kids and the teachers and the parents. I feel the frustration. Some officials are reluctant to talk to me at all.

It's like that, too.



Max Robinson and Gordon Peterson: Anchorteam on Eyewitness News



BP OUR PEOPLE WANT NO  
GAS STATION  
STAY OUT JERERAS LUGAR!





A discotheque in Southwest. It's early and the place isn't crowded. The man sitting next to me is homosexual. "It's getting better," he says. "It's easier to live here without feeling threatened." Yesterday a young mother told me she was worried about the influence on her children. A few people drift in and the level of sound intensifies.

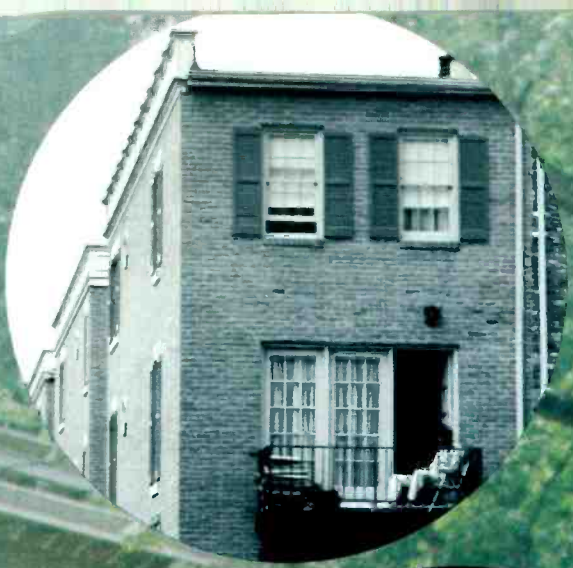
21st and R. It's still early but the place is crowded. The mood is hip and sophisticated. Confident. I think about something a young black attorney said, something about having to "abandon the confrontation rhetoric of the sixties." There's a sense of hopefulness in that. I feel some of it here tonight.

Maybe it's the music or maybe it's the obvious pleasure of a young couple just off to the Black Repertory Theatre. Or the enthusiasm of a woman describing a new exhibit at the neighborhood museum in Anacostia. Or maybe it's the man whose daughter just enrolled in the new Western-Duke Ellington High School for the Fine and Performing Arts.

Or maybe it's the music.



N.W. Q ST



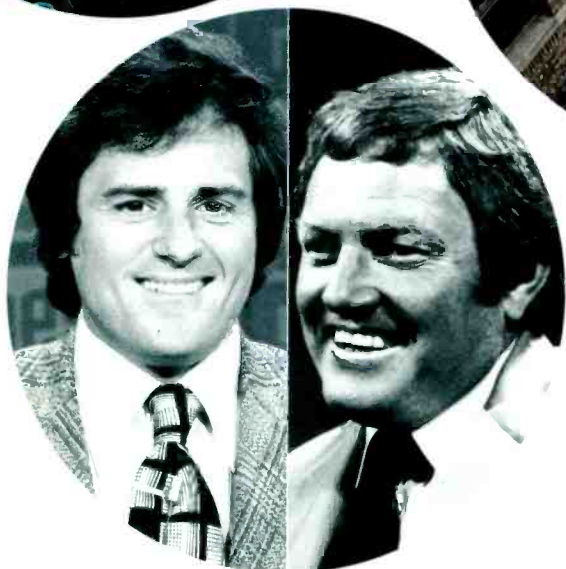
On Q Street, a man collects clothes and food for the needy. He finds jobs for young people. He's been going it alone and it's not easy. He says I should help.

In Northwest, a man is angry about the way old people are treated. "It's dismal," he says. "They're not even aware they qualify for foodstamps and medicare?" He says I should help.

In the District Building, a man talks about a new approach to "crime prevention" under Home Rule. He says it's a matter of changing "expectations." People who have been denied things have come to think it's okay to just take them. He says people have lost interest. He says I should help.

I think about how much there is to do. It doesn't matter, of course. The thing is to do it.

I should help.



The Bullets play tonight. The Terrapins tomorrow. I've got tickets but I'm busy. It used to be I couldn't give them away. That's all changed now. Ask Warner. Ask Sonny. This town's gone crazy. Pro and college basketball. Football, soccer, hockey. There should be baseball, too. It's a nice kind of crazy. Almost like we needed an excuse to get behind something together, all of us.

Okay, so it's only sports. Okay, so maybe I get a little hopeful sometimes. Okay.

I look for things like that. Signs. Signs of things starting to change. There's not that much. We take what we can get.

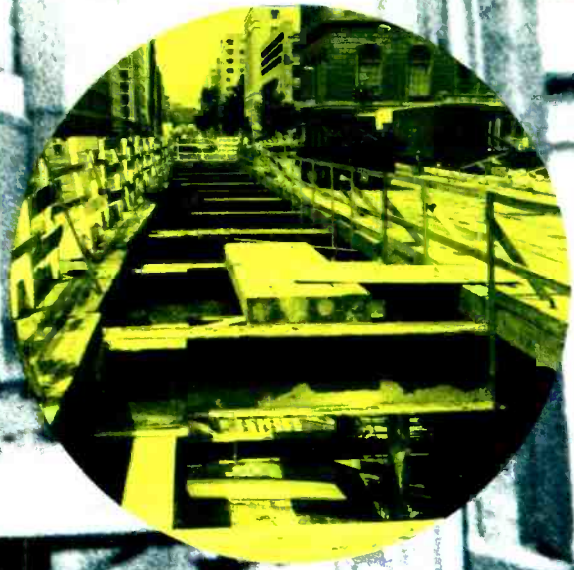
Hopeful. Only the feeling doesn't last. Not usually. Somebody says something about the Metro and it starts again. A woman tells me it penalizes blacks in Southwest. Someone in Prince George's County says it will take seven years to get a road to the nearest Metro stop. A woman in Arlington says the problem is to develop short term systems while we look for long term solutions.

It goes on.



Warner Wolf and Sonny Jurgensen:  
Sports Commentators on Eyewitness News





...for Washington, and  
**I LIKE SONNY!**

**GO REDSKINS**

**quiets**

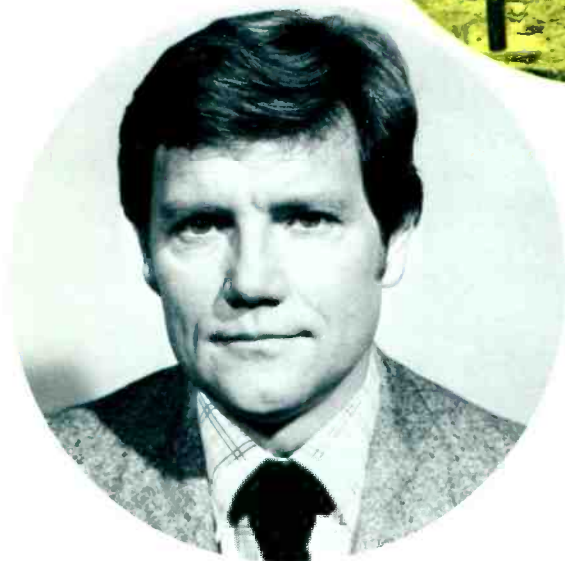
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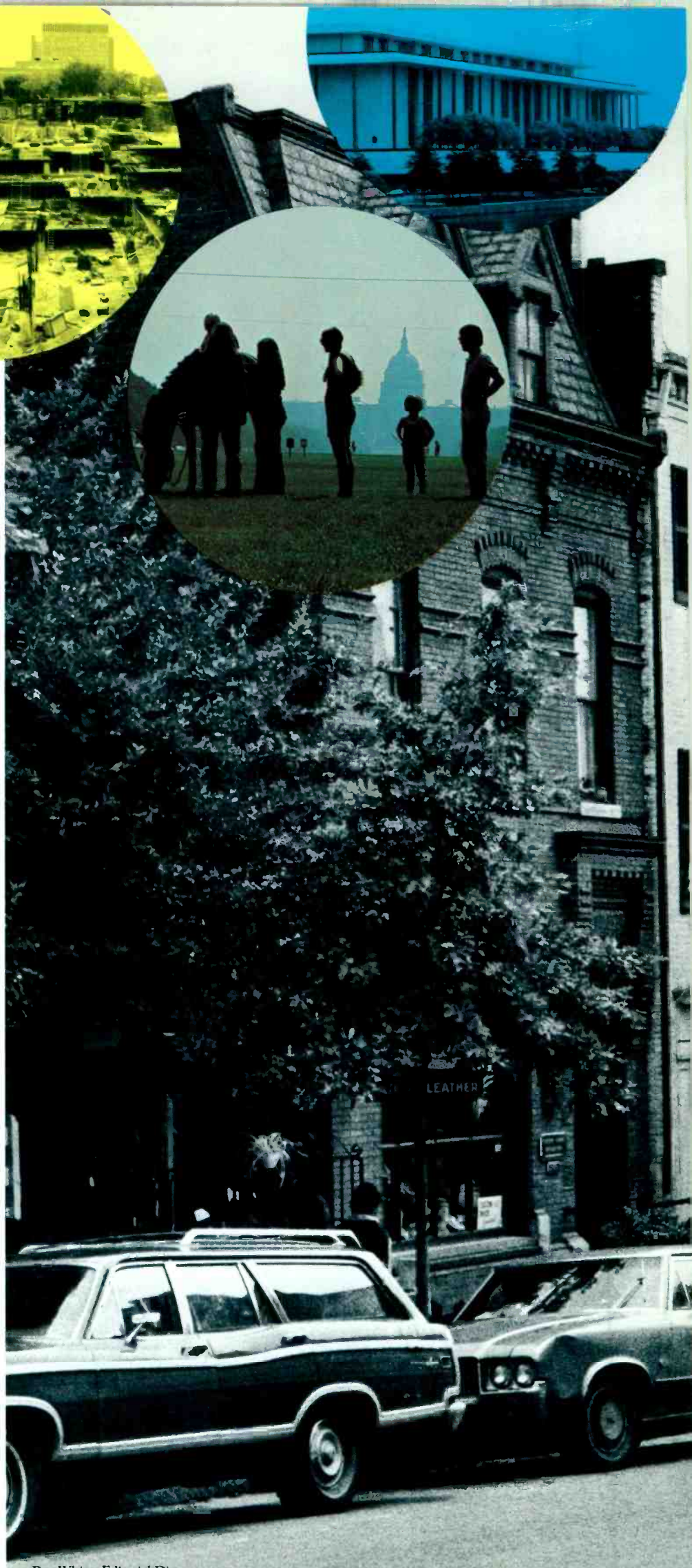


Like I said, I grew up here. I know what it's like. I cross the same bridges and I breathe the same air. I have seen the Potomac turning sluggish with pollutants. I know these streets and sometimes I'm afraid.

But I'll tell you something. I'm not the kind to look away. I like to roll up my sleeves. I like to feel my muscles flex. I enjoy the merging of my white pride and my black anger. I sense the power of my black pride and my white anger, too. Hope sustains me. Determination moves me. I am a builder.

I can show you things getting better. I have shown you. I'll show you more. The new confidence of Home Rule. Counties working to adjust. The new hospital at Howard University. Dance companies. Theatres. Transportation systems responding to people. I show you black businesses serving white customers. New projects for kids. People walking downtown at night. I show you women taking charge.

Not everything. Not enough. It's slow but it's getting there. No illusions. I hear you talking. Believe me, I hear you. I care.



Ray White: Editorial Director



## THE PROGRAMS

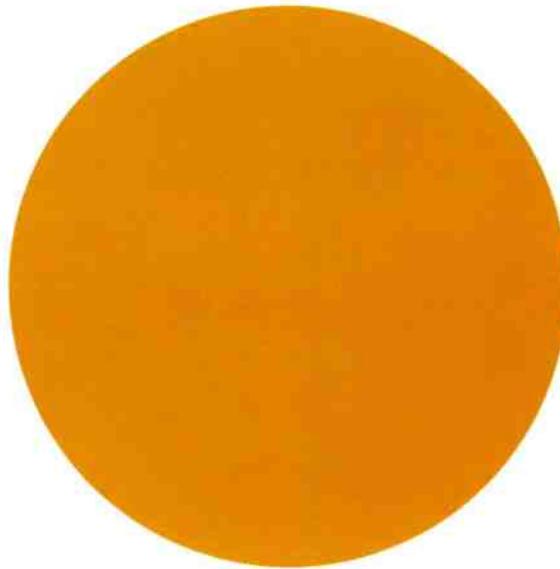
This is how we present the issues that hit closest to home.

### INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

These reports are part of the news. They are specifically designed to tell the community what they should know. Bob Strickland did some detective work in Prince George's County probing the bureaucratic tangles depriving citizens of their food stamps. It resulted in an addition of personnel assigned to the centers. Pat Collins won an Emmy for examining the ease of purchasing handguns in Washington. We did a series called "How to Cope," which dealt with the problems that everybody faces every day: the new food pricing code in local markets; the cost of living; consumer reports. We did a study of sex education in Washington area schools. We've examined teenage drinking in Washington, and the controversy over whether girls can play Little League baseball in Virginia's suburbs. Our investigative reports run the gamut. People don't always want to know what they need to know. Our investigative reports make sure that doesn't happen. Keeping the community informed is the most vital function of the news.

### EVERYWOMAN

A prime time weekend program, alternate Saturdays at 7:30, that focuses on human problems and concerns, particularly those of today's woman. Co-host Carol Randolph and Rene Carpenter explore many sensitive and sometimes hurtful topics. Profiles of life styles; divorce through the



eyes of children who have lived through it; the legal discrimination of prostitution and problems concerning transracial adoption. These are just a few of the topics that this half-hour program presents.

### HARAMBEE

This is the longest running Black program on television nationally. It is a show that deals with the total life of the majority of Washington D.C. The Black community. The show, originally an hour-long weekday morning program, is now seen in prime time on Saturdays at 7:30, alternating with Everywoman. The program's topics are many, including the return of the black Viet Nam Veteran, discrimination against Blacks in newspaper journalism, the victimization of black children by incompetent teachers. HARAMBEE was the first show in the area to cover breast cancer, the examination and the detection. It is a show that also highlights the exclusive history and expressions of Black culture in the Washington area.

### NINE IN THE MORNING

A live 90 minute public affairs forum presented in a magazine format. The daily weekday show is also a showcase for local people, music and art. Co-hosted by Rene Carpenter, Carol Randolph and Doug Llewellyn. The show explores the city's financial woes. The rising rate of violence in the schools. The housing shortage. The rent control bill and a lot of other topics that keep the Washington residents aware of what's happening everyday. Nine In The Morning. People. News. Art. Life.

## THE EDITORIALS

We do over 200 of them a year. Here are a few of special interest to the people in our community.

COG should take stand against I-66.	Jan. 7 & 8, 1974
Assess all D.C. property at 100%.	Jan. 9 & 10, 1974
Fairfax County should stick to its building ban.	Jan. 16 & 17, 1974
(Mandel's) state reforms are not enough.	Jan. 22 & 23, 1974
Maryland trials are pointing up need for political finance reform.	Feb. 7 & 8, 1974
Internal Maryland politics is hampering cooperation on sludge removal.	Feb. 12 & 13, 1974
Gasoline rationing is needed.	Feb. 21 & 22, 1974
Maryland scholarship program needs reform.	Mar. 21 & 22, 1974
New City Government II.	May 1, 2 & 3, 1974
Home Rule is a winner.	May 8 & 9, 1974
Virginia's support of I-66 hampers mass transit.	May 29 & 30, 1974
Save Arlington County's custodial program.	June 19 & 20, 1974
Green Springs Valley—A victory for conservation and common sense.	June 20 & 21, 1974
Local government should impose its own traffic restrictions to fight air pollution.	July 15 & 16, 1974
D.C. deserves more financial support from the suburbs.	Aug. 16 & 17, 1974
Congress and the D.C. parking ban.	Sept. 18 & 19, 1974
Wait for Home Rule on judicial nomination.	Nov. 5 & 6, 1974
Solution of food problem will mean sacrifice for Americans.	Nov. 6 & 7, 1974
Ban non-returnable containers.	Nov. 13 & 14, 1974
Cost of food stamps should not be raised.	Dec. 20 & 21, 1974
D.C. Police Chief should groom Blacks as former chief groomed him.	Dec. 30 & 31, 1974
Time is ripe for gun control legislation.	Jan. 20 & 21, 1975
Maryland Medevac helicopters aren't personal possessions.	Mar. 10 & 11, 1975
Maryland General Assembly should pass prosecutorial reform bill.	Mar. 19 & 20, 1975
Amended Maryland prosecutor bill deserves passage.	April 1 & 2, 1975
Forget changing or abolishing the D.C. School Board.	May 6 & 7, 1975
D.C. taxation without representation.	May 8 & 9, 1975
Maryland leadership showed itself in special session.	May 13 & 14, 1975
D.C. should approve plans to divert highway money to mass transit.	May 15 & 16, 1975
Fairfax County school should release test scores.	May 22 & 23, 1975
Congress should increase federal payment to D.C.	May 29 & 30, 1975

## NEWS PEOPLE

Mike Buchanan  
Bob Strickland  
Pat Collins  
Eldridge Spearman  
Henry Tenenbaum  
David French  
Susan King  
Steve Gendel  
Gil Butler  
Frank Herzog  
Bob Dalton  
Davey Marlin-Jones

## COMMENTATORS

James Kilpatrick  
Carl Rowan  
Hugh Sidey  
George Will  
Elizabeth Drew  
Pierre Rinfret  
Ed Diamond

## LOCAL PROGRAMS & HOSTS

TOWN MEETING—Max Robinson, Gordon Peterson  
PRISMA—Geraldo Yap  
SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE—Ed Gerald  
GOOD VIBRATIONS—Rev. Walter Zabel, Rev. Joe Gilison, Rev. Ira Yipp, Jr.  
NEWS SIGNS—Cynthia Saltzman  
WASHINGTON NEWS CONFERENCE—Gil Butler  
MASS FOR SHUT-INS—Father Fox  
DIALOG—Father Hurley  
JEWISH COMMUNITY HOUR—Various Hosts



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