Gary Brown

—Victim's mother

(Continued from Page A1)

lack of communication the Washington Police Department has displayed.

"I would hope that no other person would have to go through the type of anguish and frustration.

"I may never find out who murdered my son, but I can assure you that my heart will not rest."

Brown says her efforts to gain an insight into the murder of her son with city police have been unsuccessful and shourded in secrecy. She said her long-distance phone calls frequently go unreturned, and added that the detective assigned to the case — who she knows only as Detective Mcallister — has been on vacation.

"I am intelligent to know that the detective department cannot become my commodity, but is it asking too much to be informed if they have information on my son's death?"

"Is it too much to ask the detective on the case to return my phone calls?"

Based on the few, sketchy details that she is aware of, Brown says the police took 24 hours to inform the family of her son's murder although "he had identification readily on him."

She said Gary was wearing a beeper, and added that "his wife and sister continuously beeped all night."

"Even by their own admission, the detective stated his beeper went off repeatedly all night," Brown recalled.

Marjorie Brown saw her son alive for the last time last July 31. She baby-sat for her only grandson, Gary's namesake, who had just turned a year old.

But now his widow Margueritta, and their infant son have relocated to Charlotte, NC.

As for Brown, she has joined a support group for relatives of homicide victims, and says her close-knit family has been "wonderful through it all."

She has received a pledge of support from NOBLE — a national organization for black law officials, and through an intensive letter campaign has written Mayor Barry, Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Rep. Christopher Shay (R) to see if they could look into her plight.

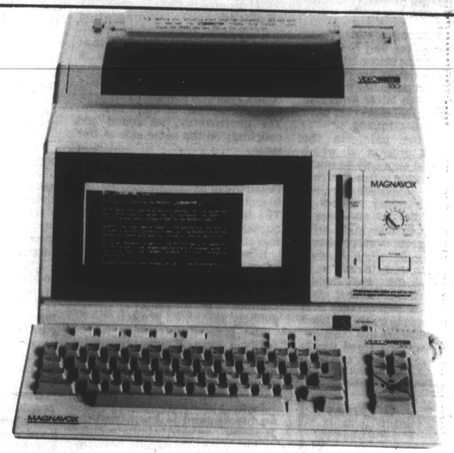
CELEBRATE THE SEASON

ELECTRONIC GIFTS, SAVE 20% TO 45%

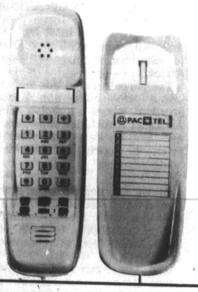
SAVE ON TYPEWRITERS, WORD PROCESSORS, ANSWERERS, MORE

SALE 249.99
SAVE $99 ON A SMITH CORONA MEMORY TYPEWRITER WITH DICTIONARY AND PAY JUST $20 PER MONTH.*
- 7000 character editable text memory
- Electronic dictionary checks spelling of 50,000 words
- Word Find™ locates errors
- Two line correction memory
- WordEraser™, line eraser one-touch correction
- 16 character LCD, battery back-up
- Model 5500 (D.088) Reg. 349.95

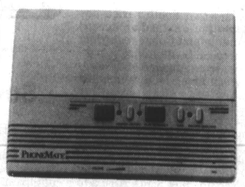
Starter kit. Reg. 49.95, SALE 39.99



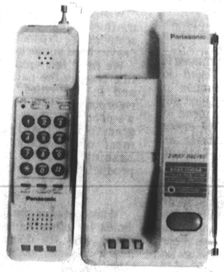
SALE 649.99
SAVE $349 ON A MAGNAVOX VIDEOWRITER® WORD PROCESSOR AND PAY JUST $45 PER MONTH.*
- Built-in mail merge software, envelope template
- Built-in word processing software
- 50,000 word spell checker, 50,000 word thesaurus
- Split screen for work on 2 documents
- Prompt screen instructs you through every phase of operation, uses 3½" disk (approx. 70 pgs.)
- Auto line centering, underline, bold
- Model 7722 (D.088) Reg. 999.95



SALE 39.99
PACTEL TELEPHONE.
- Save 33%
- Genuine Bell® quality
- 13 number memory plus redial
- Three one-touch speed dial buttons
- Electronic hold with LED, auto-release
- Lighted dial
- Wall mountable
- Model PB2203. (D.329) Reg. 59.95



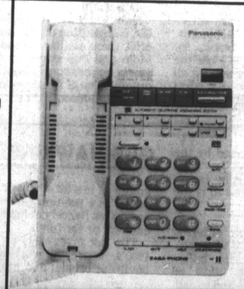
SALE 69.99
COMPACT ANSWERER.
- Save 45%
- Remote turn-on, playback
- Personal memo
- Tollsaver
- Voice activated with call screening
- Save message
- Easy one-touch operation
- Model 6600 by Phone-Mate® (D.329) Reg. 129.95



SALE 79.99
CORDLESS TELEPHONE.
- Save 20%
- 1000' range from base
- Two-way paging
- Digital security codes
- Auto-security lockout with handset in base
- Last number redial
- Model 3805/7 by Panasonic (D.329) Reg. 99.95

SALE 99.99
PANASONIC ANSWERER.
- Save 33%
- Remote turn-on/off, memory playback, greeting change, room monitoring
- LED readout for up to 99 calls
- Automatic interrupt from parallel phone
- Voice activated, call screening
- Model 1424 (D.329) Reg. 149.95

SALE 159.99
CORDLESS TELEPHONE.
- Save 25%
- 10 channel scanning for best frequency
- One-touch dialing for 16 telephone numbers
- Auto intercom, speakerphone
- Auto security system
- Dual keypad
- Model KXT3900 by Panasonic (D.329) Reg. 219.95



SALE 169.99
PANASONIC ANSWERER.
- Save 25%
- Auto answerer with speakerphone answerers incoming call before second ring
- Remote playback, turn-on, call counter, greeting change and more
- 26 number memory
- Model 2632 (D.329) Reg. 229.95

WE HAVE MORE TO GIVE
- 3600 EXTRA SALESPEOPLE
- INSTANT CREDIT IN EVERY DEPARTMENT
- COMPLIMENTARY GIFT BOXES AND SHOPPING BAGS AT ALL REGISTERS

Sale in progress. All items limited to stock on hand

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

HECHT'S
CHRISTMAS 1988

SHOP EARLY, SHOP LATE . . . STORES OPEN 9 A.M. TO 11 P.M.

The Afro-American Section B

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B4
■ Kids Talk B7

Commissioner Robert Hearn, HCD: He's charged with:

Providing affordable housing and a safe living environment

By Charles H. Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

The view from the top is always greater, sometimes clearer and seldom without compassion, for few can see it all and not recognize the failures as well as the triumphs.

Robert W. Hearn is privy to the big picture. As Housing and Community Development Commissioner in the Schmoke administration he sees the reports, the data and the studies.

Hearn hears the complaints both from civic groups and business leaders as well as receive orders, adhere to policies and follow rules all for the sake of the citizens of Baltimore.

"I'd like to characterize what we do in HCD as providing affordable housing and a safe living environment for our citizens," Hearn said. "We've been given a mandate to do that by the Federal Housing Act of 1949."

Seeing the big picture also requires a wide scope of experiences.

Dr. Hearn's participation in the process of change dates back to the 60's and New Haven, Connecticut where he was the community services coordinator for Community Progress, Inc., the towns anti- poverty agency.

There, while a member of Community Progress's research division, Hearn also served as a liaison to the Model Cities Program and assisted other neighborhood groups in education, community development and housing policy issues.

During the 70's Hearn became the deputy director of the National Urban Coalition's Urban Policy Center in Washington, D.C., and a staff member of the Coalitions's Commission on the Cities.

A teaching position at the New School for Social Research in New York, a consultant to the Ford Foundation and an Advisory Committee member to the Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Needs, rounded out the experiences of Dr. Hearn - until he came to Baltimore.

Baltimore in the 70's was as much as ever a city of neighborhoods. As such it was a city of contrasts, a city of diversity. To a lifelong community worker like Hearn it was welcome home.

"I like the idea of the city of neighborhoods," Hearn said. "The people are friendly. It's a city that is manageable in terms of size and access."

"In context Baltimore has typical urban problems (which) are manageable and a lot of thought and hard work goes into them all," Hearn added.

Since coming to Baltimore in 1974, Hearn has served as a member of the board of directors of Baltimore Council on Equal Business Opportunity, the Regional Planning Committees Task Force among others.

Sworn in as HCD commissioner on December 23, of last year, Hearn feels that his office has begun to address many of the problems of the city.

Hiring of additional housing inspectors, a new citation bill recently approved by the city council which allows for easier code violation enforcement and the community conservation areas programs which targeted three city neighborhoods for concentrated improvement.

REFLECTIVE AND PENSIVE — Robert Hearn surveys the city from his office.

Effectively drawing the line on decay in Calloway-Garrison, Edmondson Village-Edgewood and East Baltimore Linwood.

In the past financing for these projects came primarily through a combination of local, state and federal funding. But the changing national fortunes and policies, have made things tough all around.

"UDAG (Urban Development Action Grants) funding is on its last round," Hearn said. "This city and a lot of other cities" are going to feel the pinch of tighter federal purse strings.

Now Dr. Hearn has a new tool for improving the big picture: The Community Development Financing Corporation.

Long requested by various community groups and housing advocates, and a campaign promise of Schmoke's mayoral run, the formation of the CDFC was announced by the Mayor at a November 8, press conference.

Modelled on other quasi-governmental organizations, the "community bank" will be chaired by Dr. Hearn and made up of an 11 member board of directors including representatives from area banks, religious and community groups.

Known as the Community Development Financing Corporation, this "vehicle for pooling the expertise and financial resources of the public, private, and philanthropic sectors" is targeted towards the city's more persistent blight and economic problems.

Chief in the mind of many citizens is the nagging lack of affordable housing.

With over 5400 houses in the city vacant, off of the tax rolls, unavailable as housing and draining the vitality of communities already struggling with unemployment and drugs, the short supply of housing has not escaped Hearn's purview either.

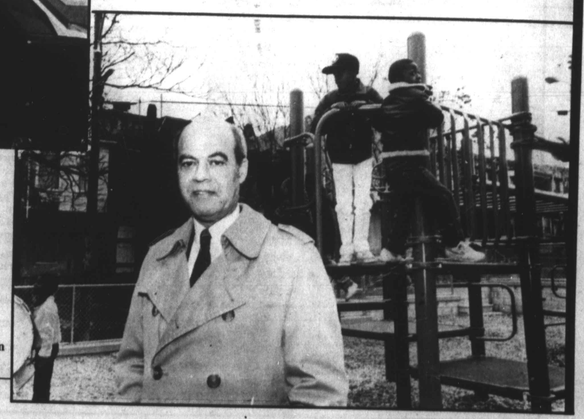
"When the mayor came into office he stated that a worthy target would be 1,000 new homeowners," Hearn said. "We have been gearing up to meet that goal."

"We want to meet some of the housing problems of the city and put vacant housing back into the stock of usable housing," Hearn said.

Within the big picture are elements of pitfalls to be avoided as well as paths toward successes. From Hearn's view it is not so much that the problems of the city have all been corrected or even addressed, but that by taking the necessary steps and avoiding the so called shortcuts, the city is turning the corner on its problems.

"The linkage between planning and developing is beginning to pay fruit," Hearn said.

IN THE OFFICE — Robert Hearn answers one of the many phone calls channeled to him.



Robert Hearn

AFRO Photos by
Paris Gray and Paul Greene