

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

Case Study | Baltimore 2015



- Editorial Cartoon: Tom Toles | “He doesn’t have his hands up!”
- Editorial Cartoon: Tom Toles | “Police Image”
- Washington Post Editorial: “A toxic stew in Baltimore”
- Washington Post Reprint: “Baltimore’s downfall”
- e-Replica Activity: Follow the Unfolding Story
- Student Activity: Covering Baltimore 2015

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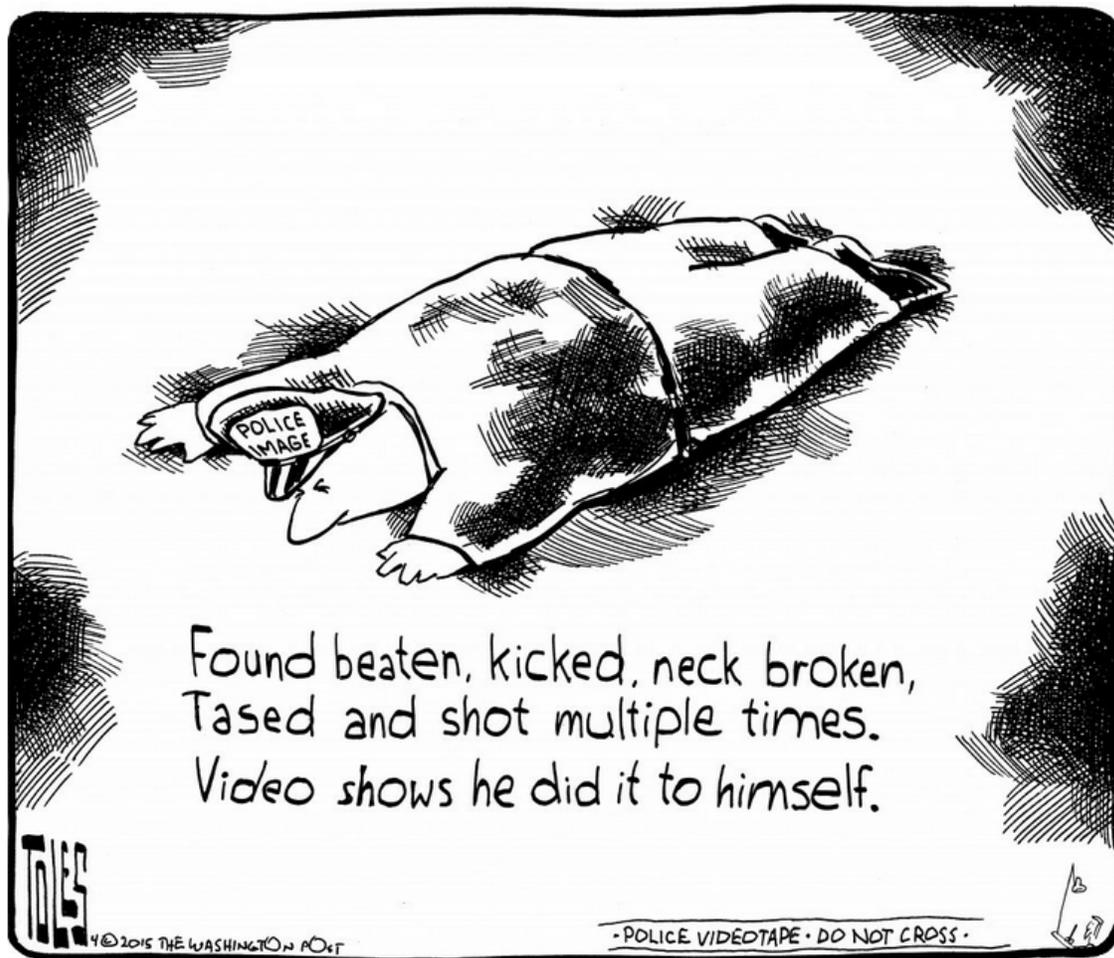
Tom Toles | April 9, 2015



1. Details are important to the visual commentary made by an editorial cartoonist. What setting is Toles creating?
2. Who are the figures in the cartoon?
3. What is said in the balloon? To whom is it addressed?
4. Tom Toles includes an “alter ego” in the lower right corner of his editorial cartoons. To what “video” is he referring? What is the tone of the comment?
5. Give your reaction to Tom Toles’ commentary.

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Tom Toles | April 26, 2015



1. One figure appears in the cartoon. Who or what does this figure represent?
2. If editorial cartoonists include words, they want readers to be sure to understand their visual reference. To what does the first sentence refer?
3. What is the significance of videos involving police actions?
4. In the lower right corner, Tom Toles' alter ego makes additional commentary. Police tape is used when an active investigation is taking place. Why do you think he changed the expected "tape" to "videotape"?
5. Editorial cartoons provide visual commentary. What current event(s) is Toles' addressing? Put into words what you think Tom Toles' perspective is.

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The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIALS

A toxic stew in Baltimore

Even in a city where justice is lacking, violence is not the solution to deep-rooted problems

A CITY that has lost a third of its population in a half-century; where police have earned notoriety for abusive, vicious and brutal community interactions; where homicide, drug crimes, teenage pregnancy, high school truancy, poverty and joblessness are endemic in some inner-city neighborhoods — it's not hard to fathom how Baltimore has succumbed to rioting, or why other cities might do likewise. As President Obama aptly put it on Tuesday: "This is not new."

None of that excuses the knuckle-headed rioters who laid waste to neighborhoods where they live Monday, burning a drugstore where they might shop, a restaurant where they might eat and a senior complex where their grandparents might live.

The "idiotic" destruction — the characterization is Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's (D) — was wanton, random and self-defeating. It said nothing, it solved nothing and it squandered the dignity and resolve of earlier protests calling out the police for the death of Freddie Gray, who died from a spinal cord injury a week after he was arrested by patrol officers on April 12.

Rioting is a senseless expression of anger and despair. It sheds no new light on problems that, in Baltimore's case, are already well known.

Last fall, the Baltimore Sun published a shocking exposé of what it called "a frightful human toll" of police beatings and brutality, which had cost the city more than \$11 million in settlements and legal fees in just four years, during which the city faced more than 300 lawsuits over police conduct. Dozens of cases from the same period were unresolved.

"Officers have battered dozens of residents who suffered broken bones — jaws, noses, arms, legs, ankles — head trauma, organ failure, and even death, coming during questionable arrests," the Sun wrote in what was, given the horrific details unearthed

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in the reporting, an achievement of understatement. “Some residents were beaten while handcuffed; others were thrown to the pavement.”

The problems in the 2,800-officer police department, the nation’s eighth-largest, have deep roots and go back years. Mindful of what she has called the “broken relationship” between police and the communities they serve, Ms. Rawlings-Blake brought in an outsider as police commissioner, Anthony W. Batts, who had previously served as police chief in Oakland. His marching orders were to improve the department’s community relations.

That was just a start, and Mr. Gray’s death is grim evidence that much work is left to be done. That work needs to take into account not only the failings of the police but also of whole neighborhoods that have been left to wither in despair. Fundamentally, what is lacking in Baltimore is a sense that justice — social, economic and otherwise — is accessible to residents regardless of their circumstances.

Rioting is not an effective means of advancing justice or any other desirable outcome. As Mr. Gray’s mother, Gloria Darden, said as the city burned on Monday: “I want you all to get justice for my son, but don’t do it like this here. Don’t tear up the whole city. . . . It’s wrong.”

— April 29, 2015

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E.J. DIONNE JR.

Baltimore's downfall

The violence that has engulfed Baltimore is visible and heartbreaking evidence of the siege the city has been under for decades.

The obvious flashpoints involve race and policing. But since at least the 1970s, the economy's invisible hand has also been diligently stripping tens of thousands of blue-collar jobs from what was once a bustling workshop where steel, cars and planes were made. Baltimore has tried to do its best in a post-industrial economy, but when work disappears, the results can be catastrophic.

Urban riots call forth an avalanche of glibness. Tragedies allow us to ride our hobby horses and to repackage the same arguments we were advancing before the first stone was thrown and the first fire set. So I will stipulate that the violence in Baltimore has multiple causes, beginning with the troubling death of Freddie Gray and a nationwide backlash against police treatment of young African American men.

Let us also celebrate this week's signs of civic vitality as residents mobilized quickly to condemn the violence, take back their streets and clean up the damage caused by lawbreakers.

But President Obama was right on Tuesday to express impatience with our typical response to these terrible episodes. "Everybody will feign concern until it goes away, and then we go about our business as usual," he said. We tend to ignore urban injustices, he said, except "when a CVS burns" or "when a young man gets shot or has his spine snapped."

Yet at a moment when the debate over the president's push for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal is one of Washington's central battles, Baltimore is Exhibit A for why there is such frustration over how the costs of globalization and technological change have been borne almost entirely by the least advantaged people in our society.

Baltimore and its inner suburbs were once home to the vast manufacturing facilities operated by Bethlehem Steel, General Motors and Martin Marietta, notes Thomas J. Vicino, the author of "Transforming Race and Class in Suburbia: Decline in Metropolitan Baltimore." In 1970, about a third of the labor force in Baltimore and its first-tier suburbs was employed in manufacturing. By 2000, only 7 percent of city residents had manufacturing jobs, and the losses have continued since. An awareness of this, Vicino says, should shape our understanding of what's happening in the city now.

"We need to reframe the problem more broadly than racial profiling and police brutality," Vicino, a professor at Northeastern University who grew up in Maryland, said in an interview. "These are major issues and have been for decades, and we need to deal with them. But the bigger context is the globalization of the economy, technological change and deindustrialization."

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Once the world's largest steel mill, employing thousands of workers, the Sparrow's Point steel mill filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

“This is a double whammy for poor black people left in the city,” he continued. “They are not in a position to share in the development downtown and, with the loss of manufacturing jobs, they are left, at best, with access to relatively low-paying service jobs. This, in turn, creates a spiral for those left behind, damaging families and devastating neighborhoods.”

This cycle hurt working-class whites as well, Vicino added, “but whites were in a better position to move elsewhere, whereas black mobility was limited by housing discrimination.”

William Julius Wilson, a professor at Harvard University, teaches an acclaimed course based on “The Wire,” the breakthrough HBO show set in Baltimore. He is also the author of the book “When Work Disappears,” a phrase I borrowed earlier, in which he offered a central truth: “Regular employment provides the anchor for the spatial and temporal aspects of daily life. It determines where you are going to be and when you are going to be there. In the absence of regular employment, life, including family life, becomes less coherent.” Again: Should Baltimore’s problems surprise us?

We can debate the merits of the Trans-Pacific Partnership another day. But what even the staunchest supporters of free trade cannot deny is that the promises of globalization ring very hollow in the parts of our nation that have been decimated by economic change. Our leaders keep pledging relief to individuals and communities left out of the bounty that trade and technology create. Yet, as Obama conceded, “I’m under no illusion that out of this Congress we’re going to get massive investments in urban communities.”

So where will the help come from? Or will we just go back to “business as usual”? The people of Baltimore and all the other places the invisible hand has left stranded deserve better.

— April 30, 2015

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Inside e-Replica

Follow the Unfolding Story | Use e-Replica Search

How can you keep up with a story that will be developing over weeks and months? Or know if certain aspects of a complex story have been reported? You can use the Search feature of e-Replica editions of *The Washington Post*.

Here's how you can create a Search account after opening the current e-Replica issue of *The Washington Post*.

- Locate the Search tab.
- Type in a search term in the field
- If searching for a phrase, it is best to use quotations marks so that e-Replica knows to search for that exact phrase rather than the individual words in the phrase.
- Select the time period to search. Anytime" will get the broadest search, covering the last three months. "Today" will give the narrowest and most current search. "Last 3 days," "This Week," and "This Month" may also be selected.

After the search is completed, *The Washington Post* e-Replica will present thumbnails of the pages that contain your search term, indicate the number of times the searched word has been mentioned on that page, and highlight this word on the page for easy reference.

Practice by using the following terms. Discuss the results.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Looting | • Police | • "Freddie Gray" |
| • Baltimore | • Riot | • "Baltimore riot" |
| • Unemployment | • "Baltimore unemployment" | • "Urban communities" |

Some events, issues and people need only a one-word or simple phrase to search published articles for your search topic. Others may require that you divide the search into several searches. As you read through the pages of *The Washington Post* make a list of key terms. Add to these terms other areas related to the economic, social and racial factors affecting Baltimore's citizens.

Set up the search using five to seven of these terms.

Covering Baltimore 2015

Reporters, photographers and editors work together to provide news coverage. They give the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of events and actions. Media also provide commentary, guest commentary and informational graphics to expand understanding of a story or issue. Social media options such as blogs and tweets have expanded the opportunities to communicate with the public.

When a story is as complex and multi-dimensional as the Baltimore story, all means of communication and understanding must be employed to be accurate and balanced and clear. Finding the multiple news elements and the Big How and Why demands a commitment to find the truth.

Read about the events that took place in Baltimore, the responses to actions and analyses. Below are suggested beginning points. Do an e-Replica search to locate follow-up stories and commentary. Evaluate how well The Washington Post has done in providing balance. Do the pieces work together to give you perspective and current information? What else would you like to know?

News Articles

“Riots after Gray’s funeral”

By Peter Hermann, Justin Jouvenal
and Ashley Halsey III
April 28, 2015

Seeking calm after the chaos

On a day of cleanup and coping, tensions flare
anew as curfew begins
By Peter Hermann, Justin Jouvenal
and Ashley Halsey III
April 29, 2015

News Analysis/Essay

Two Baltimores in stark contrast after violence
By Michael A. Fletcher
April 29, 2015

Editorial

“A toxic stew in Baltimore”
April 29, 2015

Columns

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/will-freddie-grays-death-change-anything-for-a-desperately-poor-part-of-baltimore/2015/04/27/d0e6f6ca-ed0d-11e4-8abc-d6aa3bad79dd_story.html?tid=hybrid_linearcol_2_na
“I was knocked to the ground by Freddie Gray rioters, then helped to my feet”
By Petula Dvorak, April 27, 2015

“Baltimore’s downfall”

By E.J. Dionne Jr., April 30, 2015

Guest Commentary

“What black mothers know”

By Donna F. Edwards, April 30, 2015

Blogs

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2015/04/30/two-young-voices-from-freddie-grays-baltimore/>
“Two young voices from Freddie Gray’s Baltimore”

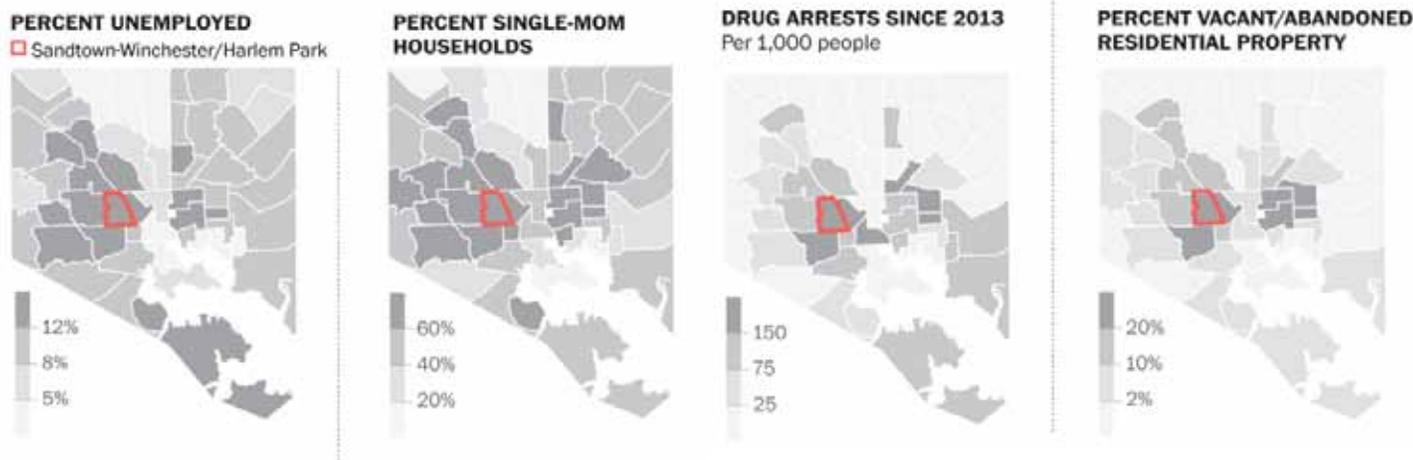
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2015/04/30/how-western-media-would-cover-baltimore-if-it-happened-elsewhere/>
“How Western media would cover Baltimore if it happened elsewhere”



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

A woman faces down a line of Baltimore police officers in riot gear on Monday during protests after the funeral of Freddie Gray.

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Mapping the city's differences

CHRISTOPHER INGRAHAM, TED MELLNIK AND DAN KEATING/THE WASHINGTON POST

SOURCE: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance; Baltimore Police Dept. arrest data

Informational Graphics<http://postgraphics.tumblr.com/post/117661493883>

A tough neighborhood

Gray was from the Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park neighborhood of Baltimore, which is in an area struggling with high unemployment, broken families, drugs and poverty.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/local/baltimore-riots/>
Riots in Baltimore — map

Rioting erupted in pockets of the city after Freddie Gray's funeral on Monday, leaving business looted and several police officers injured. Here's a map of the incidents with context.

Photographs and Videos

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/aftermath-of-baltimore-riots/2015/04/28/0369a68c-eda5-11e4-8abc-d6aa3bad79dd_gallery.html

Aftermath of Baltimore riots

http://www.washingtonpost.com/posttv/local/aftermath-of-baltimore-riots-from-above/2015/04/28/a589895e-edec-11e4-8050-839e9234b303_video.html

Baltimore

Compare and Contrast<http://postgraphics.tumblr.com/post/112752349128>

The Justice Department findings in Ferguson, Mo.

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/09/08/us/black-city-councils.html>

White City Councils for Black Cities

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-freddie-gray-20150425-story.html>

“Why Freddie Gray ran”

Baltimore Sun editorial

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-riots/>
Baltimore Riots and Unrest

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/sports/orioles/bs-sp-orioles-adam-jones-0430-20150429-story.html>

“O’s Adam Jones relates his own experiences to turmoil in Baltimore”