Delegate Keiffer Mitchell Jr. is at a café, being interviewed by a reporter when his cell phone rings. "Hello, so sorry, I've got to take this," he says. He leaves and answers the phone. He's discussing the Baltimore Grand Prix—this upcoming Indy car race that Mitchell was a key player in bringing to Baltimore. All of downtown will be affected by the race, and whenever Mitchell is talking to or closely concerned about logistics. "The delegate's answer, audience, and also uncharacteristically Mitchell continues to talk in a cheerful and reassuring manner. More than 10 minutes later, he's off the phone. He looks up sheepishly. "Sorry, that was Brian Rogers," he says, referring to the chairman of T. Rowe Price, who is an outlander from Powered. "Speaking of power..."

"Mitchell digs into his (now cold) croissant and resumes the interview. "This moment was not staged for the benefit of this story, but it very well could have been. Rogers has access, he was calling Mitchell's cell and influence (Mitchell was bending over backwards to accommodate him, and probably could've interrupted the breakfast (or lunch or family dinner) of just about any politician in town." This story is an attempt to explore Baltimore's power and the various ways it manifests itself in the region. Political power and financial power are perhaps the most obvious kinds, but there are other, less conspicuous types of power at play in such realms as culture, health care, sports, and technology. What follows is our examination of power in all of its iterations—from the boardrooms to the classrooms and beyond."
Development

They've built this town, and, very often, they call the shots (and slots).

JOHN PATERAKIS SR.
Paterakis, 81, made his money as president of the family-owned H&S Bakery, the largest privately owned bakery in the U.S. H&S and its sister companies supply McDonald's, as well as house brands for Giant Foods, SuperFresh, and others. But he's as well known now for his H&S Properties, which has developed the $600 million waterfront Harbor East district, which includes high-end condos, office towers, restaurants, hotels, and retail space. Financing, schmoozing: In the early years, his Harbor East vision was largely kept alive by Paterakis's own checkbook, which also has bankrolled numerous political campaigns. And now he's developing Harbor Point, a former industrial site just to the east that will be an $800 million complex of homes, offices, hotels and shops.

DAVID S. CORDISH
The 70-year-old president of The Cordish Companies is from a family that's been doing urban redevelopment for more than a century (his sons are now VPs). He's been behind Harborplace-esque urban renewal projects all over the U.S. that include entertainment venues, retailing, restaurants, gaming, residences, and hotels. His big new roll of the dice? The gaming casino at Arundel Mills shopping mall that voters signed off on in a November referendum. Cordish went door to door to make his case. Was there ever any doubt that he'd hit the jackpot?

EDWARD MILLER
What's the top guy at arguably the best hospital in the world doing under "developers"? Because Johns Hopkins Medicine Dean and CEO Edward Miller is the man behind the curtain for entire medical mini-cities, including the massive renovation projects that have transformed East Baltimore. The two new state-of-the-art hospitals for adult and pediatric patients represent one of the largest hospital construction projects in the nation. In his 13-year tenure as dean, he's been the driving force for dozens of other Hopkins projects, too, and was a key mover in the Baltimore City-initiated biotech park north of the campus on a once-blighted 80-acre tract. We're guessing Miller isn't anywhere near done with his ceremonial hardhat and gold shovel.
POWER OUTAGE

These former power players have used their status a lot. But don't rule out a comeback.

- Michelle Ratto Restaurant owner and former council candidate, word has it she's getting ready to open a new restaurant.
- Sheila Dixon Former mayor, who deserted her mayoral campaign to run for governor, is rumored to be planning a comeback.

John C. Ritchey

The great real estate community has rallied behind him, and he's said to be eyeing a comeback in the next few months.

Robert F. Holt

He's been quiet lately, but some say he's planning a comeback for mayor.

Pat Sasser

A former city attorney, he's said to be considering a run for state attorney general.

Tom Hiett

There would be no more last-minute rescues for his political future. He's been in the spotlight recently.

Frank Rehfeldt

A former state senator, he's said to be considering a comeback in the next gubernatorial race.

- Tress Lewis

A former local politician, she's said to be running for a seat in the Senate.

- Frank Brochock

A former mayor of the city, he's said to be running for mayor again.

William "Bill" Sweeney

Developer's name comes up in a controversy over a new development project.

- Larry Young's talk show on WJZ (1090 AM) is powerful voice on national and local arts issues, particularly in the African-American community.
- Local WQXK radio DJ Larry Young has been a key player in the local arts community for years, and his show is a must-listen for anyone interested in local arts and culture.

BOB PHILIPS

Philips, the market manager for all CBS radio stations in Baltimore, is a key figure in the city's media landscape. He's known for his ability to navigate complex relationships and make strategic decisions. His influence extends beyond his role at CBS, as he's also involved in local arts organizations and community initiatives.

MARRY COREY

Marry has been at The Baltimore Sun for more than 20 years, starting as an intern. Over the years, she's risen to a top editor position, earning respect and influence. In May, she took over as editor of The Sun, the first woman in the newspaper's history to hold the position. Her leadership has been praised for its bold and innovative approach.

JUNE MILLER

June has been at The Baltimore Sun for more than 30 years, starting as an intern. Over the years, she's risen to a top editor position, earning respect and influence. In May, she took over as editor of The Sun, the first woman in the newspaper's history to hold the position. Her leadership has been praised for its bold and innovative approach.
Andrés Alonso

Since coming to the Baltimore as CEO of public schools in 2003, Alonso has turned the system upside down, decentralizing power from North Avenue, closing failing schools, and opening more than a dozen new ones, with the intention of giving parents more choices. In the process, test scores and graduation rates have gone up, drop-out rates have declined, and many families who had previously fled public schools are taking a second look. With this year’s new contract between the city and the Baltimore Teachers Union, Alonso took on even more prominent role as a reformer on the national stage.

Nancy Gramsick

As Maryland’s Superintendent of Schools, Gramsick led the charge to win some of the $43.3 billion in federal “Race to the Top” funds. With 10 years in the position, Gramsick was able to quickly mobilize the legislature and education officials across the state to overhaul tenure and evaluation systems, set new curriculum standards, and design a new way to collect student data. As a result, Maryland was one of nine states (along with D.C.) to win funding, earning $320 million that will go toward implementing reforms and creating new schools.

Ron Goldblatt

Tough economic times have meant that many private schools have struggled to maintain enrollment, but the Association of Independent Maryland Schools (AIMS) and executive director Goldblatt have provided a steady backstop for its 115 members. This year, the organization faced its third challenge to help shoot down new legislation that would have required greater state regulation of independent schools and held a steady stream of workshops to help increase enrollment.

Marietta English

The Baltimore Teachers Union took a bold step this year, approving a new contract that includes pay increases, but also ties salary to student performance, making it one of the most restructured contracts in the country. After the membership initially voted down the deal, union president English worked with school administrators to nail down more specific and held information sessions in every school in the city, which resulted in an overwhelming 4,909-1,045 vote.

Legal


Underground

Baltimore has become a national center for underground culture. Below, the leaders of the artists, hipsters, and tastemakers who make the scene.

Dan Deacon

In 2004, musician Deacon moved to Baltimore with a mantra: “The future surrounds us. Let us begin.” Setting up camp in the Copycat building on Guilford Ave., he and some friends founded Wham City, an arts collective building with creativity, Wham City threw massive dance parties in industrial spaces, drawing artists, musicians, and patrons from local colleges, especially MICA, and beyond. In 2006, they founded Whamtown—a more D.I.Y., answer to Artisphere—giving a platform to local bands like Beach House and Pontus, who would go on to gain national followings. They staged theatrical programs like Short City.
Nightlife

Here are the forces behind everything that goes bump (and grind) in the night.

Heidi Klum
Klum was special event headliner at HeiKaYay Entertainment, which specializes in event coordination, marketing, and runs an online entertainment guide with more than 50,000 subscribers. Beyond promoting parties at The Map and Milan, Klum partners with charities and hosts networking functions. Her "promoter with a conscience," says Sam Sessa, "is The Steve Entertainment Group.

Cullen Stalin
Long before Baltimore's nightlife scene was on the map, Cullen Stalin was drawing a crowd. He and Ramos Phoenix are resident DJs at Toasa, the city's biggest dance party for nearly a decade (attracting such luminaries as MLJ). Last year, he helped start "No Rule," a hugely popular dance party at the Metro Gallery — that bridges the hipster and hip-hop scenes. Cullen has helped developed Toasa into "one of the most powerful nightlife brands in the city," says City Paper's music editor Michael Byrnes.

Bill Musilhusser
As the owner of the Rams Head Group, Musilhusser owns five spots in Stevensville, Annapolis, and Baltimore, including Rams Head Live! and Pier 5. He was smart enough to partner with promoter Seth Hiawas of FMP to bring big-time national acts to Rams Head Live! (like the Beastie Boys and Smashing Pumpkins), and is currently working with David Cordish to bring a new music venue to the Arundel Mills area.

Dining

These restaurant royals are at the top of the Charm City food chain.

TY TOFORD AND CIDHY WOLF
The formidable restaurant team — Foreman Wolf — a restaurant visionary. Wolf's a world-class chef — came to the forefront of the city's dining scene in 1995 and hasn't slowed since. The business partners have since formed the Foreman Wolf group to oversee their four restaurants: Charleston, Cביתa, Petite Louis, and Pazo (they also have two wine stores). It's no surprise that this duo is planning another business venture this year. Their empire grows.

EDWIN DOPPPIN
Dopppin is probably best known for transforming a stretch of W. Cold Spring Lane into a mini restaurant row with Miss Shirley's Cafe, Pigtown Eddies, and Roland Park Bap Co. (He also owned Loca Home and Alexis) until selling them about a year ago. His Crazy Man Restaurant Group now has another Miss Shirley's at Inner Harbor, and Dopppin is grooming his son David in the business. Dopppin is also exploring location options for one, possibly two, Miss Shirley's in the next year.

Society

Two couples rule the gala scene with their philanthropy—and their rodeo-ness.

EDDIE C. AND C. SYLVIA BROWN
The generous Brownes could easily fit into several of the power categories on this list, but they consistently wield their power in the social arena. They were fired at gala at MICA and The Regional F. Lewis Mussen and have been courted guests and honorees at nearly every big event every year in town, including the Artisphere Foundation and the Living Classrooms Foundation.

"They're the most influential African American couple in the state of Maryland," says talk show host Anthony McCarthy. "Everyone is knocking on their door. White, black, and in between.

And when the Brownes show up — even more often, are honored guests at one — the A-list of Baltimore is at their beck and call.

"They go to the right parties, they chair the right galas, they show up at the right dinner parties," says McCarthy. "They are the quintessential power couple," agrees Del. Kefifer Mitchell Jr.

"Says McCarthy: "Their legend continues to grow."

ART AND PAT MODELL
The ModeLLs are the 2 Rs: Rich, retired, and revered. In a relatively short period of time (by Baltimore standards at least), they have become significant patrons of both the arts and local charities.

"They have given so many wonderful philanthropic gifts to so many institutions around town," says Sandy Richmond, the executive director of the newly renamed The Patricia and Arthur Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric.

"There's no way to say thanks!"

And when the ModeLLs chair a party, "people show up," says one high-ranking society observer.

"Art and Pat do not take their commitments lightly," says Lori D. Mulligan, director of development and marketing for Gilchrist Hospice Care. (The ModeLLs recently chaired its Holly Ball.) "Their name alone is associated with good judgment and impeccable taste.