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TWO PUPILS HELD IN SCHOOL ARSON CASES

(STORY IN COLUMN 5)

$10 Million Plan At Morgan State (SEE STORY ON BACK PAGE)

Baltimore Afro-American

Seventy-fifth Anniversary

Youths Take Over At City Council (SEE STORY ON BACK PAGE)

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Dr. Rhetta Attacks Abortion Law

No backdown on school strike here

By ROGER J. NISSLY

"We are past the talking stage. We have talked for 34 years and are going to act now."

Dennis Crosby, president of the Baltimore Teachers Union, announced his position Wednesday as the union prepared to strike city schools next Wednesday, May 10.

According to Mr. Crosby the School Board "is going to have to come across on at least half" of the union's 35 demands for the strike to be called off.

The local affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO), with a membership of 2,000, has said it will be able to close more than half of the city's schools on Thursday if agreement is not reached on the demands by Wednesday.

The union will throw up its picket lines around City Hall and the Board of Education after school at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

That evening all night schools will be closed, and the next morning, the elementary and secondary schools, unless the membership approves any offers of the School Board, Mr. Crosby said.

• • •

A MEETING of the membership — to approve or disapprove any offers from the city — has been set for 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Asked on what conditions the union would call off the strike, the union president replied, "Nothing is binding. It is up to the membership."

The union has reported it has the written support of

—See School strike, Page 20

CURT BRIGGS

New ConCon slate in 4th

A costly fight that could bring repercussions in the upcoming City elections was assured Thursday night for Fourth District candidates for seats in the Constitutional Convention.

Senator Clarence Mitchell III's organization decided late last night to field a ticket of candidates which includes at least two persons not backed by other major district groups.

The People's Democratic Organization approved five names of what will be a seven-member slate and two of the five, the Rev. Marcus Wood and Herman Waskow, are not on the other slate.

Both the Rev. Marcus Wood and Mr. Waskow were named on an original slate proposed by Senator Mitchell and Senator Verda F. Welcome.

Both senators later worked with the community groups led by the Rev. Frank L. Williams and their organizations were among the 42 voting on the community-backed slate.

Mr. Mitchell cast his organization's ballot for the slate he now will oppose. He told the AFRO Thursday night his organization did not feel the other slate had been

—See New slate, Page 19

Md. student dies during Penn Relays

By MILDRED O'NEILL

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — A fatal tragedy struck in the Franklin Field stands Saturday as the nation's track stars toppled records at the 73rd annual Penn Relays, when a Maryland State College junior, collapsed at the side of his boyhood pal, and later died when a piece of frankfurter lodged in his windpipe.

Curt Briggs, 21, of Hurlock, Md., near Cambridge, who was majoring in agriculture, was rushed to University Hospital at 1:25 p.m. Saturday and died at 4:24 a.m. Sunday.

The tragic story was related to the AFRO by Dean Warren Morgan of Maryland State:

Briggs and a childhood friend, Ben Woods, who is also a student at Maryland State, ordered hot dogs and soda.

However, Briggs took a bite and remarked that the mustard had an odd taste.

Woods glanced at Briggs and noticed that he looked funny and thought he was going to throw up, Dean Morgan said.

Woods helped him off the stand to the ground, "just in case he got sick. He didn't want him to throw up over anyone," Morgan said.

But when Woods looked at Briggs, he realized that he was choking and ran to get him some water, but when he returned he was on the ground unconscious.

Woods summoned police stationed in Franklin Field and a physician from University Hospital was brought to the scene.

The doctor couldn't find any pulse — his heart had stopped beating.

The piece of meat was removed by the hospital physician on the field and he administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Briggs was rushed to the hospital where an emergency operation was performed to restore breathing.

But brain damage resulted when the youth's heart

—See Student dies, Page 19

STOVE WINNER — The first of the Grand Prizes of the AFRO Cooking School, a stove donated by Boone Appliances, went to 11-year-old Carolyn Knight, 547 N. Pulaski St., shown with her mother. The lucky youngster attends Abraham Lincoln Elementary School 141 at Mulberry and Payson Sts., where she is in the Fifth Grade.

Thousands enjoy AFRO home show

Thousands of persons visited the AFRO Cooking School and Home Show to view the many colorful booths and displays by local merchants Wednesday and Thursday.

The spectacular event at the Winchester Armory closed with the Thursday night show and marked the 37th year of the one spring occasion Baltimore housewives like best.

Capacity audiences remained each night and for the Thursday matinee to win the $1,000 in cash offered by the AFRO and the grand prizes, a refrigerator and stove courtesy of the AFRO and Boone Appliances Co.

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Hundreds of jubilant patrons took home food baskets and various prizes such as television sets, electrical appliances and beverages given by individual merchants.

Mrs. Jessie Joy, 2935 W. Mosher St., wife of a Social Security employee and a Social Security employee herself, won the refrigerator Thursday night.

Mrs. Joy who is mother of four children, ages 11, 8, 6 and 4 years, held a total of eight tickets; five Thursday night since her four children were with her at the show and three Wednesday night.

A frequent Cooking School goer, she said she had previously won a food basket and decided to try her luck again this year.

The Joy family attends John Wesley Methodist Church.

Mr. Boone and AFRO president John H. Murphy III presented the refrigerator, the top prize of the show.

• • •

SECOND MOST coveted prize, awarded Wednesday night, was the stove won by 11-year-old Carolyn Knight, 547 N. Pulaski St., a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary School 141.

The third prize, $200 AFRO cash went to Mrs. Mary McClellan, Thursday night while the other $200 was won Wednesday night by Mrs. Elizabeth Everett.

Among the many other Thursday prizes were television sets from National Brewing Co. and Carling Black Label won by Mrs. Lillie Logan, 2807 Round Rd., and Earl Turner, a youngster who resides at 340 E. 22nd St.

Schmidt Baking Co. transistor radio went to Mrs. Irene Lindsey, 1204 N. Dukeland St.

Other final night prize

—See Cooking school, Page 21

172 abortions here last year

By MICHAEL DAVIS

A late model automobile made a whip-like turn into the ambulance entrance of Provident Hospital on Division Street.

A man and a woman leaped from the vehicle and dragged the lifeless form of a young woman from the rear of the car and then sped off into the cold December night.

An ambulance attendant and a nurse's aide put the woman on a stretcher and rushed her into the hospital's emergency room.

The woman, a Baltimore school teacher and mother of three children, was dead.

She died, medical reports indicated, as the result of severe hemorrhaging induced by a criminal abortion.

LAST YEAR Baltimore's abortion squad, headed by veteran police officer Sgt. Mary J. LaPlante, investigated 172 complaints of abortion in the city.

Investigation, Sgt. LaPlante said, revealed that of this number 30 abortions were determined to have been self-induced and that in 33 of these cases evidence was found that indicated some kind of criminal abortion by a second party had taken place.

The problem of abortion in Baltimore is not an unfamiliar area to police officials who have attempted to cope with the legal and medical aspects of this problem.

The official police department figure of 172 abortions committed in the city of Baltimore is, police officials say, a misleading one.

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EACH YEAR a number of abortions in Baltimore and other cities across the United States take place but no official record exists unless the victim becomes ill and comes in contact with reputable medical authorities.

Doctors and hospitals are required by law to report all cases of abortion to law enforcement agencies.

Working from hospital reports Sgt. LaPlante and the

—See 172 abortions, Page 20

Medic facing trial sees law outdated

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

Dr. Barnett M. Rhetta Jr., local physician under indictment on two abortion charges, has filed motions in Criminal Court challenging Maryland's 99-year-old laws that term abortion a crime.

The motions were filed April 21 by his attorney, Joseph S. Kaufman, former U.S. deputy attorney general, who told the AFRO Thursday the legal moves are "long overdue."

Talking generally with this reporter, the noted attorney said extensive research plus review of published books of 1967 argue a 100-year-old law may have been "good medicine" and made "good sense" in light of scientific progress then.

"However, today, with antibiotics and great progress in medicine it's different," he stated.

Commenting on the eight-page document that may go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Mr. Kaufman says the Maryland law passed in 1868 has never been changed "from the first comma" and is outdated, outmoded and ineffective in modern times.

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HIGH POINT of the motion seeking to dismiss indictments charging Dr. Rhetta with illegally performing operations on two young women last year, is his contention that the law violates a pregnant woman's Constitutional rights.

"The provisions of the Maryland law (Article 27, Sec. 3 of the Annotated Code) denies unto the pregnant woman life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness since she may be forced to bear a child she does not want despite her wishes and those of her medical doctor," the motion states.

In addition, Dr. Rhetta claims the law interferes with the professional relationship between physician and patient and the right of privacy fundamentally guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

• • •

CONTENDING THAT the law is applied arbitrarily and unreasonably, Dr. Rhetta insists the statute discriminates against-medical

—See Dr. Rhetta, Page 21

Dixie make-up of draft boards due court test

ATLANTA (UPI) — All-white draft boards in the south are under attack in the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Defense of Civil Rights worker Cleveland Sellers, who has refused to be inducted into the Army.

ACLU attorney Laughlin McDonald said Tuesday he and regional ACLU director Charles Morgan, in defending Sellers, will ask the courts to prevent local boards from functioning if colored people are systematically excluded.

"The same reasoning applies to draft boards as to juries," McDonald said. "The courts have ordered juries that systematically exclude colored people — cannot convict people. They could order that draft boards could not function unless there were colored members on them."

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SELLERS, 22-year-old program director for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), refused to be inducted into the army Monday at the 12th Army Corps headquarters here.

He contends he was drafted out of order because of his involvement to civil rights activities and was denied due process because his draft board at Bamberg, S.C., systematically excluded colored people from serving.

There are 161 white persons and one colored person now on South Carolina draft boards. McDonald said the colored member was appointed two years ago by

—See Court test, Page 20

1½ million votes cast by students

Thomas Small, a student at Calverton Junior High School and Denise Bardon, a student at Northern High School are nip and tuck this week in the AFRO'S Student of the Year Contest.

And though early standings are not really conclusive at this stage of the game their standings do indicate that they are not letting any grass grow under their feet.

Thomas is in the number-one slot this week with a total of 96,200 votes but Denise Barndon is right on his heels with a tally of 94,600 votes.

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THE AFRO's contest editor has been really burning the midnight oil to keep up with the vote ballots that have been pouring into her office.

To date she has received over a million-and-a-half votes and every day the mailman's bag is getting heavier.

If you haven't entered the contest yet or if you'd like to get out and help push your favorite candidate towards a share in the $1,500 AFRO prize bag, get started now.

In each edition of the AFRO you will find complete detailed information on the contest as well as the complete standings of all participants.

ANOTHER FRONT - RUNNER in the contest include Howard K. Johnson Jr. of Fairmount High School. Howard has a total of 88,700 votes.

But the field is wide open and it's still anybody's ball game.

The contest will continue through June 17.

So what are you waiting

—See Contest, Page 20

Mayor prospect eyed in Gary

GARY, Ind. (UPI) — Despite an opponent's well-oiled political machine, a 34-year-old attorney, a vocal civil rights activist, won Gary's Democratic nomination for mayor and could become the nation's only mayor elected by popular vote.

Richard Hatcher, a city councilman at large, won the Democratic primary Tuesday over a field of eight other candidates. In the past, winning the Democratic nomination was tantamount to election. The city never has elected a Republican mayor.

Gary, an industrial community of 200,000, is Indiana's second largest city. Its population is estimated to be 55 percent colored.

• • •

HATCHER WON what was basically a three-way race involving him, incumbent Martin A. Katz and businessman Bernard Konrady. Six others were also run.

Katz had a well-oiled political machine working for him but apparently could not overcome the heavy vote for Hatcher among Gary's colored majority.

"The people of Gary have spoken. I congratulate you," he said in a telegram to Hatcher, on his 2,000-vote win.

Nab suspect in Advance heist

Bail of $45,000 was set Thursday for a suspect charged with two armed robberies of Advance Federal Savings and Loan, plus the October hold-up of a North Ave. realty firm.

Western District police arrested Andrew John (Evil) Walker Tuesday morning at a house in the 1500 block Retreat St. Listed in police records as Walker's home, the address is almost within sight of the scene of three recent holdups of Advance Federal, in the 1600 block W. North Ave.

A veteran police officer commented: "From that house you could sit and watch as the police searched the alleys for the stick-up men."

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THE ACCUSED man was trapped through the efforts of Western District's crack plainclothes squad.

Commenting on the capture, in which a gun was also recovered, Capt. Dennis Melow said Thursday; "We had a plan of action. We were successful. Our men worked hard on this. Time meant nothing to them.

"We had to come up with something. Our investigation is continuing and another arrest is coming up. We know who we want."

• • •

THE SUSPECT listed himself as a laborer. Police obtained a warrant for his arrest early this week.

In a Wednesday night lineup, he was picked out by two Advance Federal employees,

—See Nab suspect, Page 20

MAY 14th Is MOTHER'S DAY

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YOU KNOW BECAUSE YOU READ THE AFRO.

Remember a good citizen is registered and votes. Do so TODAY & Supervisors of Elections, Fayette and Gay Sts.

POLICE AT CROSSROADS

'New deal' May 21 on every call for help

By ROGER J. NISSLY
(Final Story In Series)

An emergency call to police, beginning May 21, will, in many instances, have officers at the scene before you have hung up your telephone.

This updating of communications is one of the bonuses in the current revamping of the Police Department directed by Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau from L.A.C.P. report.

When the new communications system goes into operation, the department will have a new emergency number which can easily be remembered — 222-3333 — for emergency calls and complaints.

The old emergency number SA-7-1200 will be kept in operation "for about a year" until the new one becomes familiar).

• • •

ON THE new number calls will be taken concerning everything from a major crime to a "barking dog."

Major Gordon H. Daugherty, director of the Communications Division, made the statement that on many calls the caller will "still be on the telephone" when police arrive.

Commissioner Pomerleau has vowed that the aim, "of course, is to reduce response time to seconds," but this ideal response time probably "ll be reached only after the mobile force is increased to its full complement of 600 to 700 cars.

Maj. Daughterty also predicts that with increased police effectiveness, emergency calls, which numbered 450,000 last year, "may go over one million."

• • •

AT THE same time as the new communications center begins operating, a new system of record keeping (field reporting) will be introduced in the districts, one at a time, but it will be the communications system which has the most direct bearing on citizens, at least at first.

In two years, a computer, functioning in conjunction with the records division, will be able to predict criminal activity before it becomes a fact.

The work done in commu-

—See 'New deal', Page 3

Housing row to mar Ky. Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — For the first time four distinct classes have entered the Kentucky Derby and odds-makers are baffled by the job of picking a winner.

For the horses this will be the 93rd Run for the Roses. For the others it will be the first time out.

The Rev. A. D. Williams King, a leader of open housing demonstrations here, has vowed that his group will halt the race unless City Council passes an open housing ordinance.

After some youthful pranksters got onto the track during a race Tuesday, Gov. Edward Breathitt announced that more National Guard Troops would be assigned to control the crowds Saturday. This tends to make the Guard a new class.

Then the Ku Klux Klan arrived Wednesday.

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FOUR ROBED men who identified themselves as members of the invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, went to historic Churchill Downs race track to see derby officials.

They were denied admittance.

Dr. Martin Luther King arrived here late Wednesday to address a meeting of open housing forces headed by his brother.

Leaders of the open housing campaign said they would interfere with the derby unless the city passed an ordinance banning racial discrimination in the rental or sale of real estate.

The robed figures were refused admittance when they sought to speak with race-track officials about "protecting Klansmen, Klanswomen and other white people" at the derby.

• • •

A RACETRACK spokesman aid the Klansmen were met

—See Housing row, Page 20

2 pupils held in arson case

A rash of suspected school arsons has plagued fire investigators and officials in three schools over the last week.

An 11-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy will be petitioned to Juvenile Court in two of the cases, according to Arson Squad chief, Sgt. William Rawlings.

The fires, all of which caused minor damage, were in Houston Junior High School 181, Rodman Elementary School 204 and Woods Junior-Senior High School 452.

INVESTIGATORS AT the scene of the elementary chool, Mulberry and Grantley Sts., in which the young

—See 2 pupils, Page 21

WHETHER WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS OR CASUAL ACQUAINTANCES— YOU'RE ALWAYS AN ACTIVE PART OF ANY CONVERSATION— WHEN YOU READ THE AFRO.

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