—Death Row —'Going as high' —Jail student

FROM PAGE 1

take away.

"This example goes to show lifers receive no justice and are being discriminated against, and are considered nothing but a tool to be used by the state penal system."

The inmate, making a strong plea for a change in the parole laws covering life sentences, wrote further:

"With all my heart and soul I believe such a change in the Annotated Code will change the attitude of the men and women serving life sentences, and will instill hope and faith to reach for a higher goal in knowing we are considered human beings rather than a tool."

Further along, the inmate's lengthy letter to Sen. Snyder stated:

"Even if they were eligible for parole sooner, good time laws afford some needed relief. The best relief, of course, would be an improved sentencing and improved sentencing and parole law.

"Our prison system places everything on security, and no help is given to the men who want to change and be useful citizens to society, and the men and women are left with the impression no one cares, so why should we be good without help.

"If crime is out of control in Maryland and America, then something terrible is wrong with the prison system of Maryland and America."

After receiving the letter Senator Snyder (D-Allegany-Garrett-Washington) said:

"I think the system should be reviewed and I will be very happy to ask the committee to study the proposal."

Sen. Snyder is chairman of the General Assembly's Committee on Correctional Administration.

"But I don't think," he said further, "that this should be brought up in bill form at this Assembly session.

Sen. Verda F. Welcome (D. 4th Balto.), a member of the committee who was with him at the time of his comments, was in agreement with Sen. Snyder.

"Perhaps the parole system for lifers does need revi e w, she said "with a study of what procedures are used in other states and how effective they are."

Both senators said the matter would be looked into by their committee following the close of the current Assembly session, which ends March 25.

As the law now stands, an inmate serving a life sentence is eligible for parole after serving 15 years. Work and good behavior will not cut that period to bring parole consideration quicker, but misdeeds may lengthen it.

* * *

There are 180 men under life sentences to date with 18 men on death row.

Among them is Johnnie Brown, 53, Salisbury cook, first sentenced to die in 1960 for the murder of a policeman. He has been convicted on three occasions.

Gov. Agnew granted a stay of execution in October, 1968. The order remains in effect unless Gov. Mandel issues a new death warrant.

The matter is looked upon as a political issue at this point. Attorney General Francis B. Burch says the governor alone can issue a new death warrant.

Gov. Mandel voted against the abolishment of the death penalty when he was a member of the House of Delegates.

* * *

On Thursday, Assistant Penitentiary-Warden James J. O'Brian told the AFRO revamping of the whole system is due to come after the Parole and Probation Board completes its current study.

He stated, "With David Mason and Jasper Clay now the new full-time members of the Board, real things will be done."

Warden O'Brian also informed the AFRO that there is no credit given for work or good behavior where lifers are concerned.

He stated that after 15 years time is served, the Parole Board may recommend in a report that a lifer get a job at one of the system's five camps, at Poplar Hill, Eastern Shore-Hughesville, St. Mary's County; Sykesville; Jessup Camp Center or Eastern Correctional in Queen Anne's County.

Only the Board can make the recommendation, he stated.

The Penitentiary, in operation since 1811, has had a total of 50,000 prisoners with 80 executions, 76 by hanging and four in the gas chamber.

The longest sentence is 260 years being served for

FROM PAGE 1

Although the law says a

of the immediate area who urged by petition that the board grant the transfer as being necessary for "the convenience of the public."

The public hearing before the board was Oct. 30, 1968, and approval was granted Nov. 26, 1968.

Opposing residents filed the appeal in Baltimore City Court on Dec. 24, 1968.

Petitioners were Kenneth Dyce, 819 Chauncey Ave. and 12 other persons, all residents of the immediate area.

Larry S. Gibson attorney represented the protestants who are members of the Mt. Royal Improvement Association; the Whitelock Neighborhood Club, NAACP., Department of Housing and Community Development, the Board of School Commissioners and Eugene Warren of another neighborhood group.

Associate attorneys were Edward Agrael and C. Rider Brandau Jr.

* * *

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dazed look on her face.

"Do you want me to appoint a lawyer for you?" he asked.

The girl returned a blank stare. "You are entitled to have a court-appointed lawyer plead your case," the jurist repeated. There was no answer.

Only when she was asked how she pleaded to the charge did the girl mumble 'guilty.'

Judge Silver ordered the court clerk to enter a plea of not guilty.

* * *

The defendant was accompanied in court by her aunt, Mrs. Mary Gray. The girl's real mother is dead.

After the hearing, Mrs. Tutman told the AFRO, "This is not typical of our students at Carver." She's not like the usual student.

Although she is still under the doctor's care, Mrs. Tutman told the AFRO that she expects to return to the classroom shortly. The mother of two boys, Mrs. Tutman is the sister of Milton Allen, the attorney.

letter or by means of filing a petition of protest."

Mt. Hebron Honors Widow

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church at 1617 W. Saratoga St. honored Mrs. Elizabeth Matthews, 69, Sunday, Jan. 26. Mrs. Matthews is the widow of Rev. James H. Matthews pastor of Mt. Hebron for over 20 years.

The Rev. Mrs. Matthews died two years ago at the age of 81.

The church was packed and over $400 was raised for Mrs. Matthews. Before the service, she was given a dinner at the home of Mrs. Madeline McClemon.

After dinner, services began at the church whose new pastor is Rev. Paris S. Thompson. Program chairman was Mrs. Viola Hill. Mrs. Gladys Murphy presided.

Several choirs and ministers participated in the tribute. Among them were the Young Adult, Jr. Choir, Male Chorus of Hebron.

The Hiram E. Smith Chorus of Mt. Lebanon Baptist and, the Trinity Choir, and the Matthew Gospel Chorus also sang. The Rev. Lewis Campbell, New Hope, was a soloist. Scripture was read by Willie C. Johnson. The Rev. John Pettiford, offered prayer, and Miss Anita Jordan gave the welcome address.

The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Carl L. Washington of Trinty Baptist.

After the service, many people returned to Mrs. McClemon's home to honor Mrs. Matthews.

The dinner guests were the following: Marion Harris, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore of Washington; Mr. and Mrs. Simon Banks and daughter, Miss Brenda Beverly, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hill, Mrs. Mcclin, Mrs. Constine Vanden, Mrs. Mamie Exton, Gary Ward, and James Griffin.

Mrs. Matthews told the AFRO,

"I would like to thank my people and say may God bless the pastor and congregation for what they've done for me."

FEB. 25

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wisconsin U. Calls Guard

MADISON, WIS. (UPI) — National guard troops Thursday took up posts at University of Wisconsin buildings in an effort to protect students wanting to go to class against student strikers.

The guardsmen stood guard at buildings on the school's liberal arts campus, where protests began last week by students who said they were backing a list of demands by black students.

A prominent colored professor at the school said that the black students who started the protest are no longer controlling it. Marshall Colston, a former official of the NAACP, said other groups were "using the issue for their own purposes."

Students Burn Rebel Flag

COLUMBIA, S. C. (UPI) — Students supporting a colored group's request to ban "Dixie" and the confederate flag at the University of South Carolina burnt a rebel battle flag on the campus Wednesday night.

Campus police said approximately 40 students were involved in the flag burning in front of the home of college president, Dr. Thomas F. Jones.

Guerilla-Type Plot

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI) — One of four men charged with wounding a policeman from ambush testified Wednesday the attack was part of a guerilla-type plot against police by the Invaders, a black militant group.

Ben Heard Berry testified the invaders have a supply of weapons which they keep stashed out at homes of various member. He said they frequently brought their guns to a former headquarters for the neighborhood organizing project.

U.S. To Raise Pay

WASHINGTON (UPI)— Most of the people who work for the government — from postal workers to pencil pushers — will be getting a pay raise this summer. Latest figures indicate it will amount to 9 or 10 per cent.

Abel Leading In Race

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Incumbent I. W. Abel maintained what appeared to be an insurmountable lead over challenger Emil Narick Thursday in the race for president of the United Steelworkers of America (USW).

Abel's headquarters said unofficial returns from 2,750 of the union's 3,800 locals in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico gave Abel 182,000 votes to 107,000 for Narick.

Students Taking Drug?

ARLINGTON, VA.—The Arlington School Board is studing a report that alleges more than one third of all Arlington High School students have used drugs.

The study alleges as many as forty per cent of the students are taking drugs . . . or have taken drugs at one time.

A Dangerous Joke

MEXICO CITY — (UPI) Nursing a bottle of liquor, Victor Rodriguez was in the mood for a practical joke. So he told the pilot to fly him to Cuba.

His airborne tippling could cost him 40 years in prison. A Mexico City judge Wednesday ordered him held without bail on charges of airline hijacking.

Rodriguez told the judge, "I was drunk and it was just a stupid joke. I am sorry, I didn't mean it." Rodriguez forced his way into the piot's cabin of a Mexicana Airlines DC6 Saturday, on a flight from Mexico City to Villahermosa, and told the pilot, "take me to Cuba, or Paris."

Citizens Blame Lindsay

NEW YORK (UPI) — Snow-beleagured New Yorkers Thursday looked up at the sky, down at the ground and sideways at Mayor John V. Lindsay.

Lindsay, who claims "I don't put it there," took a terrific lambasting Wednesday from city residents, especially in Queens, for his alleged neglect in removing snow from the season's worst storm.

Criticism ranged from a bitter "he better not come over here in his helicopter, somebody will try to shoot him down," uttered by Democratic councilman Joseph Modugno of Queens, to a sarcastic "I might as well be living in the alps," from U. N. Undersecretary Ralph J. Bunche in a telegram to the troubled mayor.

Snow Creates Problem

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS. (UPI) — Williams College ran into a strange problem Wednesday. There was too much snow for the winter carnival.

The schedule of events for the weekend's 54th Williams Winter Carnival had to be revised because 20-foot-high drifts on the upper section of the college's ski area made Friday's downhill event impossible. The giant slalom has been shifted to nearby Brodie Mountain.

Jaywalker Ticketed

DENVER (UPI) — He's only five years old and three-feet-tall, but Leigh G. Barron is going to get his day in court. He jaywalked and got a ticket.

His father, Denver pianist Leigh Barron, says the youngster ran into a car while chasing a friend across the street. The boy suffered a broken left collarbone and a dislocated left hip.

"They held the ambulance there until he got his ticket," the senior Barron said. Police explained they were doing it to protect the motorist.

U.S. Cuts Education $

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Department of Health, Education and Welfare Thursday cut off federal financial aid to three more Southern school districts for failure to desegregate in compliance with the 1964 civil rights act.

The district affected were Emmet School District No. 13, Emmet, Ark., Greenwood County School District No. 52 at Ninety Six, S. C. and Chester County Board of Education at Henderson, Tenn.

First To Seek Council Seat

SPARTANBURG, S. C. (UPI) — Joseph L. Edwards Thursday became the first colored person to file for a major elective office in Spartanburg's recent history.

Edwards, 44, paid his $400 filing fee and became the first announced candidate for the nomination to City Council in the March 25 Democratic primary in the city.

Edwards is seeking one of two open seats on the Council presently filled by members who have not announced their candidacy for re-nomination.

—'Fake Aretha'

FROM PAGE 1

ware of all fake shows. Don't be fooled any longer . . ."

"The recording stars of 'Court of Love,' the Unific Quartet of Washington, D.C. are NOT scheduled to appear in Richmond for this Friday and Saturday. . . ."

At the end of the handbill was the message: "Support your local police department — 'Report Crime.' "

"Ain't that a gas man," said Hosea. "He's putting this word out on me and I am going to rave the group I promised here. I never promised the "Unifics of Washington, D.C." I promised a local group singing under that name." (He was apparently careful not to mention his group as the "Unifics" for fear of violating the court injunction).

"But this guy is promising Vicki Jones this weekend. And you wait and see if she shows up," he added.

* * *

Sure enough, the poster advertising Vicki's performance at Gregory's indicated that "The Lawyer" was promoting the show.

And sure enough, Vicki weekend.

Vicki, meanwhile, who really does look a bit like Aretha Franklin, was taken aback by the advertising.

"I think they're just Aretha.

And her manager, Florida Attorney C. Ray Greene Jr., told the AFRO he was investigating the possibility of bringing a damage suit against the man who tried to cop some advantage of his own from the fake Aretha.

Vicki said she knew the promoters who tried to fill their house by guaranteeing her performance.

And she was apparently bitter about the whole thing.

"Before I went to Florida for the first time, I didn't have any money, and they knew I didn't have a dime. And they knew I was a good singer too. But nobody would book me to do a show except Hosea," said the 27-year-old mother of four boys.

Now that things are looking up for her, Vicki says she would like to come back to Richmond and do a show for Hosea at the Pink Garter.

Vicki returned to Florida for her first trip there since she pulled her now famous Aretha fakeout. By contrast to her "Aretha tour" when she ate hamburgers and stayed in a second rate hotel, she said she went first-class this time around.

She did a one-night stand with Duke Ellington ("It was so exciting just to be in Duke's company," she recalled) and she ate steak, using me," said the fake

"I don't like hamburgers no more," she said. Hamburgers became symbolic of her put-on when Florida authorities revealed that Vicki was allegedly locked in a hotel room by Lavell Hardy, promoter of the Aretha show, and forced to eat hamburgers.

Vicki refused to reveal any of the details of that Florida trip saying it will all come out at the trial when false advertising charges are brought against Hardy in a Florida courtroom later this month.

She was glad to talk about her own dreams and aspirations, however.

"I hope to be as big as Aretha. But in my own style. I've got my own bag. The way I feel is that people can buy Aretha for Aretha and they can buy Vicki Jane for Vicki Jane," she said.

"I don't know one note from the next," she continued. "But what talent I got, I got from God. I didn't go to school to get it.

"I know I can use a little training — if singing jazz and blues. But I feel with a little training, I can go all the way. Because I don't believe there is such a word as 'can't,' " Vicki said.

"That's my real story. It may not be a big story to the newspaper. But it's a story to me because it's the real thing."

—Knew right away

FROM PAGE 1

two army officers from Morgan State came to her home as she and her daughter were preparing to catch a plane to Ft. Bragg.

"They broke it to me so nicely I was able to accept his death," Mrs. Waller told the AFRO.

Pvt. Waller who was stationed at Ft. Bragg was due to graduate from basic training Friday, Feb. 14.

He was the third basic trainee in five days to die at Ft. Bragg of infectous meningitis, according to army reports.

The two previous victims were Pvt. Nathaniel Williams, 24, of Philadelphia, who died Saturday, and Pvt. Larry L. Shiflet of Elkton, Va., who died Monday.

Pvts. Waller and Shiffiet were considered close friends.

Ft. Bragg officials, while not declaring a quarantine, said they were closely monitoring the cent and "every preventative measure known to modern medicine is being taken throughout the post."

An army spokesman said that throat culture surveys taken from recruits revealed that 15 to 20 per cent are carriers of the meningococcic organism. Very few of the carriers are stricken with meningitis, however, the spokesman said. Prior to the three recent deaths, there had not been a fatal case since Feb., 1967.

Pvt. Waller, who was stricken suddenly, had sent his mother a Valentine's Day card, which she received the day he died, saying, "I am doing fine and I will graduate on Friday. Will see you soon. Hope you feel better."

He planned to come home Tuesday and become officially engaged to Miss Caroline Owens. He had already bought the ring.

"Linwood was a fine boy. He wouldn't want me to grieve as I am, but I can't help it. He paid so much attention to what I taught him and w[illegible]ever in [illegible] sort of trouble," Mrs. Waller told the AFRO.

"Just two weeks ago he brought a friend home with him from the base just so I could pray for his friend."

One of Pvt. Waller's sisters, Mrs. Renee Fauntleroy, remembers, "my brother was a wonderful, joyful, lovable young man. Everybody who knew him loved him. He kept you laughing all the time which was a part of his nature."

Pvt. Waller planned to make the Army his career. A member of St. John Baptist Church since his early teens, he graduated from Carver High School in 1967.

Mrs. Waller is a nurse's aide at Lincoln Nursing Home. Her husband, Harold Waller, is a dock builder at Martin G. M. Back Co.

Besides his parents and a sister, Mrs. Fauntleroy, Pvt. Waller is survived by three other sisters, Mrs. Leatha Wallace, Mrs. Helena Sampson, Mrs. Marie Williams; and four brothers, Harold Jr., 26, Alexander, 25, George, 21 and Rufus, 18. Rufus Waller attends Polytechnic High School.

Funeral arrangements for Pvt. Waller had not been made as of AFRO press time.

Rights unit gets aid in steel fight

WASHINGTON — Discrimination in job promotions will come under heavy attack shortly when human rights agencies throughout the nation join the Gary HRC in a battle with U.S. Steel Corp.

The decision to attack the corporation came at a meeting of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

Charles H. King, executive director of the Gary HRC and chairman of the international organization which represents 120 commissions in the U.S. and Canada.

The Gary case was presented to the conference by Mrs. Judy Smith, member of the Gary commission, who, along with King, asked for the association's backing and support.

The Gary commission at present is enjoined by court edict from conducting open hearings on its allegation that at least a dozen qualified colored employees at the corporation are deprived of the opportunity of promotion.

Jobless rate still at 15-year low

WASHINGTON

The nation's unemployment rate remained at a 15 year low of 3.3 percent in January, the Labor Department reported this week, and officials said the job picture gives no indication of a cooling off in the economy.

Despite the record low in the unemployment rate, the jobless ratio between whites and non-whites was still 2 to 1. The jobless rate for whites in January was 3 percent and that for non-whites was 6 percent. Both rates were unchanged from December.

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