MAKING HISTORY at the University of Maryland Law School are Clifton W. Gordy Jr. (left) newly elected president of the Student Bar Association, and Michael O. Ramsey, Vice-President-elect of the student association. (Photo by Jonh Dorman).

Election reforms lagged during State Legislature

By VAL HYMES

ANNAPOLIS — With the Primary election in the forefront, it may be of passing interest to note that this year's effort to outlaw "walking around money" on election days failed again.

That old tradition of passing out cash stipends to helpers, and sometimes just voters, appears sacrosanct, but a move of related interest to the sociable voter is the fact that the bill to allow the sale of liquor on election day almost got through.

A tax check-off to raise funds for state and local candidates and a postcard registration plan also went down the drain.

So you couln't call this year's session a biggie for election reform, especially when the key bills were just plain ignored. Yet some of the things that were not done will have an impact on the voters and the candidates.

An example was the killing midway in the session of the bill that would have apportioned the Democratic delegates to the National Convention according to the way the Congressional districts' votes went in 1968.

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That action could result in a challenge of the Maryland delegation on the convention floor if the political leaders are not satisfied with the way the voters pick them May 16.

It was an emergency bill designed to reward those districts loyal to the Democratic party that carried Hubert Humphrey by giving them additional delegates taken from those that voted for Independent George Wallace. Baltimore City's two districts would have gained two each from the even six apiece established the year before.

So every district will elect six Democratic delegates, and those delegates will meet June 6 at Towson State College (if Governor Mandel signs Senate Bill 401). It is at that meeting that the five at-large delegates (Mandel and other party chiefs, many predict) will be selected to represent the districts entitled to extra delegates.

But because the public has been involved for the first time and the law does not dictate it, there is no guarantee that the Governor or even the National Committeeman and Woman, or party chairman, will get a seat on the floor. It's wide open.

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The Republican party's reform bill, on the other hand, did go through and it was signed by the Governor during the session. Two delegates will be elected from each Congressional district, while ten will be chosen by the Central Committee at a State convention June 3 at Ridgely Junior High School in Baltimore County in a partial throwback to the old traditions.

The Democratic Central Committee was meeting this week to elect a National Committeeman and Committeewoman, a party co-chairman and Convention committee members.

Yet another tradition will be challenged as the New Democratic Coalition offers a slate that includes nominees who are neither Central Committee members nor delegates. Del. Walter R. Dean Jr., Patsy M. Garlid and Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman are on the slate.

One thing is obvious in all of this: when they asked for public involvement, they got it. And the voters will choose 48 from 530-odd candidates to go to Miami.

The ballot will carry 11 Democrats and 3 Republicans for president because last year's law puts every John, Dick and Hubert on it who's been headlined as a possible candidate.

"It's a monstrosity," says State Election Administrator Willard A. Morris of that law, and he is not much kinder about the section dealing with the delegates.

A constitutional amendment and a companion bill that were enacted this year would remove the ban against voting by convicted felons who have been released if the voters agree while letting the General Assembly make the final decision.

Also enacted was an emergency bill that has already been used to register college students and Social Security Administration employees for the primary.

It let the elections administrator appoint extra registrars at colleges, for example, where they had been required to come from whatever county the student claimed as home.

Ten counties were represented at the Baltimore Social Security headquarters and 79 were registered in two days at College Park under that new law.

Yet on the minus side, another bill that passed appears to be aimed at the youthful voter because it says he cannot register if he cannot provide proof of age when he is asked for it. But it applies to all ages, ironically.

The efficiency experts will like those successful measures that detail the manner of listing names (and some residences) on the ballot and allow the computerizing of absentee ballots.

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No elected school board bills passed this year, including those for the city and Worcester county, but a constitutional amendment would set up staggered terms for elected boards. Neither will 18-year-olds or clergyman be able to run for the General Assembly.

And at the very last minute, a bill was enacted (not yet signed) that would comply with a recent Supreme Court decision, and if the Attorney General turns out the expected formal opinion, lower the six-month residency requirement to 30 days for new voters in presidential elections.

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A far-reaching bill by Attorney General Francis B. Burch that would have closed some of the loopholes in the loosely knit Fair Election Practices law, however, was quietly sent to the Legislative Council. And another aimed at candidates' contributions and spending did not even get out of committee.

It begins to look as if the little people in the election picture are willing to try reforms while the big boys consistently ignore legislative efforts to streamline the traditions nearest their votes. It's slowly changing, but nobody's sure yet whether the change is worse than the old way.

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What's News: — Planned Parenthood will hold its annual state meeting May 25 at the Lord Baltimore, with columnist Carl Rowan speaking on "Where Angels Fear to Tread."

Arbutus-Catonsville area to get new playfield

A recreation field is to be made available to the Arbutus-Catonsville community as a result of land leased by the University of Md. — Baltimore County (UMBC) to the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks.

Approval for a plot of land measuring 4.5 acres was formally announced at a recent meeting of the Md. Board of Public Works.

The area located between Poplar Ave. and Sulphur Spring Rd., northwest of Shelbourne Rd. and opposite Arbutus Junior High School, is soon to be developed into three athletic fields, which include a 90-foot baseball diamond, a 60-foot baseball diamond, and a regulation football field. Construction began April 22 and will take approximately three weeks to complete.

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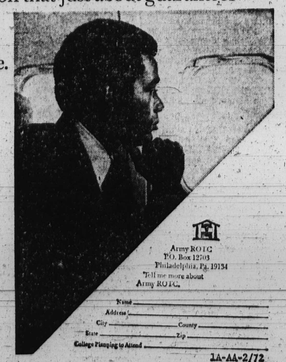

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MUSICAL MOMENTS

Earl Grandison to receive degree; Miss Smothers gets Edna Carter scholarship

By ADA K. JENKINS

With the approaching of graduation season come announcements of auditions, prizes and awards.

Earl Grandison, who will receive his degree from Peabody this month, has been granted a full scholarship to Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he will study several years.

The gifted Baltimore bass-baritone was one of the nine finalists in the Middle-Atlantic Region audition of the Metropolitan Opera also held in the spring.

Grandison was declared winner in the final auditions last week in the Wolf Trap Park for the Performing Arts, in which over a thousand singers from over the country participated.

He received a $1,000 summer study grant and will sing during the 10-week season in "The King and I", "Romeo and Juliet", "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Tyesmoniaha", by Scott Loplin, the first notable black composer.

As a member of the Wolf Trap Company, the singer will have the opportunity of appearing with the National Symphony in the popular concert series.

His recent senior concert at Peabody, which was heard also in the Douglas Memorial Church concert series was highly successful. He is a voice major with Mele. Flore Wend.

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Miss Maureen Smothers, trainee-assistant in Urban Musical Theatre of Baltimore and performer in its first production at Morgan State College, has received the Edna Carter Memorial Scholarship for study in areas of musical theatre and voice at the college.

The scholarship is sponsored by the Caparettes, of Baltimore, Inc. Miss Smother's interest in musical theatre started under Mrs. Georgianna Chester at Edmondson High School.

Her first leading role was in the community production "The Sound of Music", directed by Miss Paula Chester at the Madison Ave. YWCA in 1965.

She has travelled and performed in Belgium, France, Canada and ten cities of this country with the touring cast of "Up With People".

At present, Miss Smothers is a sophomore at Community College of Baltimore, where she is working toward an Associate of Arts degree in music and as a special student of Musical Theatre at Morgan State College, with Joseph Eubanks.

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The Concert season at Douglas Memorial Community Church continued with Gounod's "St. Cecelia Mass" performed by the church choirs, conducted by J. Spencer Hammond, minister of music.

Chester Rowlett, violinist, Mrs. Sonja Garris, harpist and Mrs. Juanita H. Davis, at the organ, provided the accompaniment.

Under the discriminating, masterful direction of Hammond, particular care was taken not only of the score, but of contrasting the expression of the changing moods of the Mass.

The calm beauty of the 'Incarnation', the triumph and majesty of the 'Gloria' and the prayerful Agnes Dei (Lamb of God) were meaningful.

Although the St. Cecelia Mass follows the six movements of the Catholic ritual, Gounod, like the romantic composers of his period, produced an effective concert work resembling an oratorio or cantata.

Solos, duets and ensembles were admirable vehicles for the human voice, with responsibilities taken by Mrs. Catherine Neal, Mrs. Fannie Jackson, Mrs. Minnie Johnson, Mrs. Celestyne Hamlin, sopranos; William Grace, Howard Wright, tenors, James Barr, William Dixon, Rufus Graves and Richard Person, basses.

A sensitive performance of the offertory was offered by Rowlett, guest violinist. The Rev. Bascom, pastor of Douglas Memorial, announced the Mass will be repeated at morning service later in the season.

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CALENDAR: Fri., May 5, 8:15 p.m., Murphy Auditorium, Morgan State Coll., Baltimore Symphony, conducted by Sergui Comissions; Miss Veronica Tyler, soprano soloist, presented by Northeast Symphony Society, Cross Keys Organization, hosts at coffee hour.

May 5, 8:30 p.m., Mt. Rooks. Sponsors: Union Baptist Church and Harvey Johnson, Memorial Center. No charge.

Fri. and Sat., May 26 and 27, Peabody Alumni Reunion Weekend. Recital by members of graduating class 1972 Preparatory Dept. 8:30 in Leakin Hall, May 26, reception following.

Sun., May 7, 8:30 p.m. in Keaushaar Auditorium, Goucher College, the Goucher-Hopkins Community Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Daniel Abrams, with a 15-voice chorus in an all-Beethoven concert, featuring the Ninth Symphony with guest soloists, Mrs. Delores Jones, soprano; Mrs. Marie McCarthy, mezzo soprano; Mrs. Anne Lindquist, tenor and Joseph Eubanks, baritone. George Woodhead, chorus master. No charge.

Sun., May 7, 12:30 p.m. in Peabody Plaza, Fourth Annual Spring Festival, Supper at 6:15; rag-time concert, 7:30 p.m.

Sun., May 21, 4:30 p.m., Union Baptist Church, Druid Hill Ave. near Dolphin St., operetta "A Fisherman Called Peter", performed by members of St. James Presbyterian Church of New York City, directed by Mrs. Dorothy Maynor

MISS MAUREE SMOTHERS, assistant in Urban Musical Theatre at Morgan State College, receives Edna Carter Memorial Scholarship.

Warning issued on tick fever

The Baltimore Health Department warns that ticks that carry such diseases as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia, or may cause tick-bite paralysis, most often attach themselves to people during warm weather months.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever has been on the increare in Maryland in recent years. In 1971 a total of 31 cases of this disease were reported in the state.

Ticks are usually found in grassy, wooded and bushy areas in the city or suburbs.

They transfer themselves to people and animals passing through these areas.

These flat, blood-sucking, spider-like animals should be removed as soon as they are felt or seen crawling on someone, before they have a chance to bite or become attached to the body.

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When attached to the body for any length of time, ticks become engorged with blood and expand in size.

Should one attach itself to you or your child, don't pull it off or the head may remain in the skin.

Alcohol or ammonia applied to the rear of the tick will cause the tick to let go.

Grasp the tick near its head and lift gently. A check should be made to be sure no mouth parts are left in the bite and an antiseptic should be applied to the bite area.

Should a fever over 100 degrees occur within three to ten days of a bite, tick-borne illness should be suspected and a physician seen at once.

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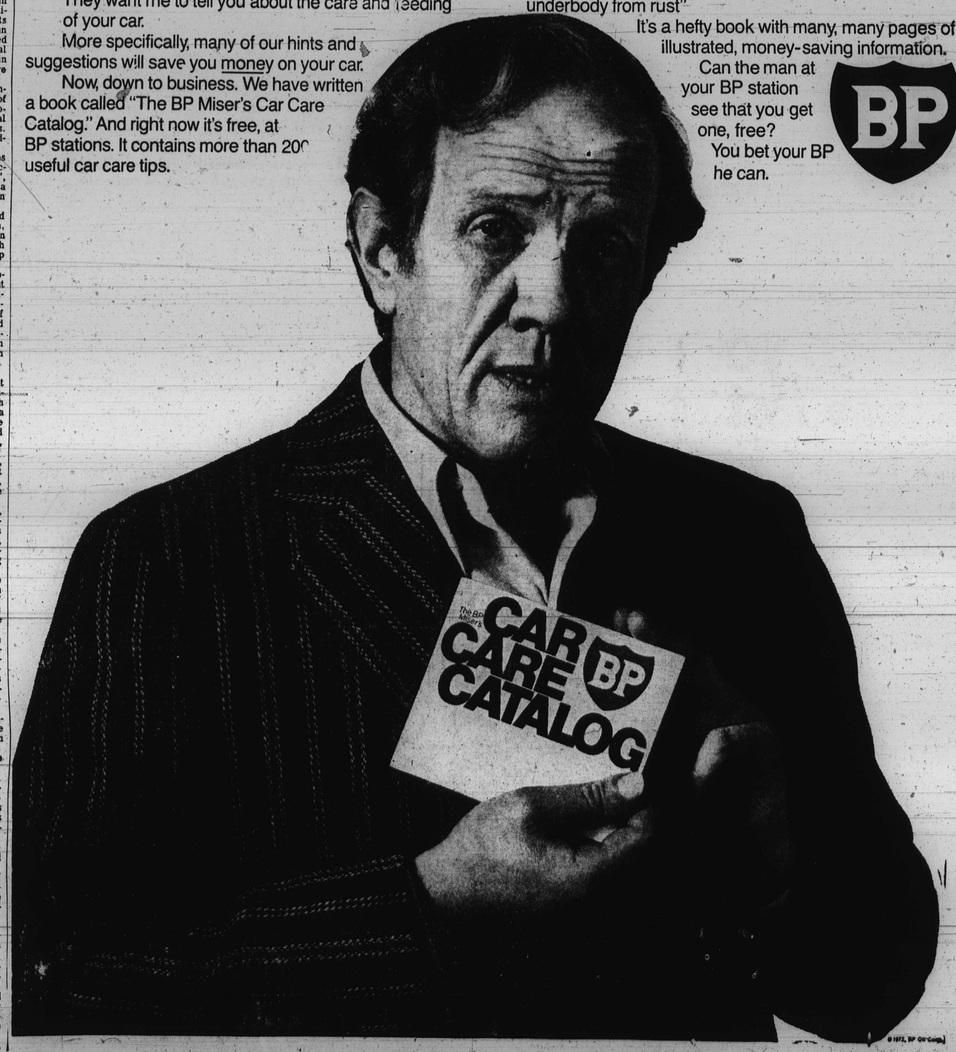

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