SMOKE BILLOWED MILES HIGH as 11 alarms were sounded at the Dryden Oil Co. in West Baltimore Tuesday afternoon. Several firefighters had to be taken to area hospitals for treatment of assorted minor injuries and smoke inhalation. Damage from the fire that took over three hours to control is expected to run close to $1 million. This is the third fire at the company since April, 1976, the other two were found as the work of arsonists. Over 200 firefighters were used to fight the grease-fed fire.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

School officials drop Region One

By Clarence W. Hunter

A total of 17,126 students in 23 schools located in Region I will belong to one of the other eight school regions in September as Dr. John L. Crew, superintendent of schools, announced this week that Region I had been pinpointed as "the most feasible region to be phased out."

The announcement came after a month of study and several weeks of speculation as to which region would be droped as a part of the school system's requirement to reduce administrative costs.

The elimination of the region will also redistribute the student population more evenly among the remaining eight regions.

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In outlining the phase out plan Dr. Crew said Region I was picked because of its geographical location.

According to Craig Cutter, acting director of the Office of Advance Planning and Development, Region I is centrally located in the center of the city adjacent to Region II and Region VII with a 95.5 per cent black student population.

Cutter said eliminating the region would leave Regions I and VI the centrally located regions with Jones Falls Pwky., as the dividing line.

He stated eight of the schools in the phased out region east of Jones Falls will be relocated in Region II and six schools located west of Jones Falls will fall in Region VII. The remaining eight schools according to Cutter, will be placed in Regions IX, IV and VII because of their proximity to those regions.

Both Cutter and Dr. Crew pointed out that schools in Region I were not the only ones to be redistributed.

According to Cutter five schools not in Region I will be relocated in other regions.

Cutter said Thomas Johnson and Fort Worthington Elementary Schools will move from Region II to III, Robert C. Coleman Elementary and Frederick Douglas High School from Region VII to VI and George Street Elementary School will be relocated from Region VII to IX.

Dr. Crew emphasized the elimination of the region will cut the need for about 45 positions, 15 of which carry administrative titles. He stressed that the regional staff will be shifted to other regions with no loss of job status or pay.

Preston Roney, currently regional superintendent in Region I has been reassigned to Region VI. Carroll Wagner, currently head of Region VIII, will go to IV and Dr. Joel Carrington, has been reassigned to Region IX.

Dr. J. Roberta O'Wensey, who is presently superintendent of Region IX, announced her retirement earlier this month.

Roney said the shifts were done in such a manner as to put the regional official where he could operate most effectively.

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Dr. Crew pointed out the feasibility study was undertaken with consideration given to five crucial points.

He said the systemwide student population is expected to be between 160,000 and 165,000 for next school year, therefore the plan for eight regions would place about 20,000 students in each.

Dr. Crew also said regional balance, geography and community involvement was also considered.

Crew pointed out that active community involvement is a necessary and valuable part of the educational process in Baltimore."

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He stated that whenever possible the "regional cluster" was developed in a manner which would not divide neighborhood communities involved especially in the case of where an elementary and secondary school are located in the same community.

When asked whether the elimination of Region I would affect the desegregation policy Crew stated the secondary zone lines and the elementary registration areas would not be disturbed.

Dr. Crew also added that renumbering the remaining regions has not yet been decided.

MS. SOUL contest is a fund raising activity sponsored by the Peoples Democratic Action Organization. Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III is shown dancing with Miss Ernestine Bynum, after she was crowned Ms. Soul 1975 last April. The contest is now open for Ms. Soul 1976. The person reporting the highest amount of money will be crowned Ms. Soul 1976. Prizes are a weekend trip to New York; second prize is a color television; and third and fourth prizes will be a television or a year's lottery ticket. For further information call 523-6275 or 523-3759.

Local poetess to be part of 1876 exhibit

By Clarence Hunter

Mrs. Mary Carter Smith, well known area poetess, actress, storyteller and folksinger will be a part of the Smithsonian Institution's Centennial Exposition now at its Arts and Industries building on the mall in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit, simply entitled "1876," displays all the sights and sounds of life in the United States 100 years ago.

It will be on display for two years from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day during the summer.

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Featured under the 284 acre roof are jaunty reminders of 1876 recreated by the Smithsonian exhibitors, noted for their incredible eye for detail.

Rows and rows of tools and wares sit in glass cases arranged in a simple symetry. Plants chosen from the era spill over the balconies and surround the fountain set in the middle of the hall.

In one corner of the balcony area a music machine plays songs from that era.

According to museum officials, only about 15 per cent of the 25,000 objects in the current display were actually seen at the Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia.

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Mrs. Smith who is a former city school teacher and librarian, is noted for her poems and stories on black culture. She is a graduate of Coppin State College and did graduate work at Johns Hopkins University and Rutgers University.

MRS. MARY CARTER SMITH

NEW YORK — The 1976 Holcombe Rucker—ITT summer basketball league opens its season on June 28 for some 1300 to 1400 youngsters who will participate this year in this most popular of New York cage tournaments.

Business papers can incriminate

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court has affirmed a ruling of the Maryland Special Court of Appeals that says business papers can be obtained with a proper search warrant even if they reveal incriminating writings by the defendant.

Under this ruling, police may seize a persons's incriminating personal business papers and use them as evidence without violating the defendant's constitutional right against self-incrimination.

The court said Tuesday that since the writings are voluntary, there is no danger of coerced confession, which is forbidden under the 5th admendment.

Maryland's case involved evidence seized in a Montgomery County lawyer's office. The appellate court held that the evidence could be used against the lawyer, Peter C. Andersen, in a land fraud case.

The high court's 7-2 decision reaffirmed Andersen's conviction and his two-year jail term.

An opposite ruling, said Justice Harry A. Blackmun, who wrote the majority opinion, "would prohibit the admission of evidence traditionally used in criminal cases," such as gambling records. A note given a bank teller, during a robbery that is later found in the robber's home, or a ransom note prepared by kidnappers, but never mailed.

Blackmun's opinion was another in a line of recent 5th Amendment decisions broadening the kind of evidence which can be admitted at trial.

AFRO BIRTHDAY FEATURE

Become a star today!

If your birthday happens to fall sometime in late July or anytime during the month of August, you are the potential star of an exciting AFRO feature story.

In one month and 11 days, we will celebrate 84th birthday. It was on Aug. 13, 1892, when the first four-page sheet called the AFRO-AMERICAN, hit the streets.

Initially an advertising sheet for church and community enterprises, the paper has grown immensely to become the leading black newspaper in the country, covering stories on the local, state, national and international levels.

Our birthday is indeed a happy occasion, but it can be so much more with your participation. Since you have made the paper what it is, it is only fitting that we pay tribute to you on our shared birthday.

If you would like to be featured in the AFRO, just send a black and white photo and information about yourself to Bryan Dundi Holt, AFRO Birthday, P.O. Box 1857, Balttimore, MD 21203.

Include how long you've been an AFRO reader, what columns or sections you appreciate most, and what you would like to see more of in your community newspaper.

Send all the information out and become a star today! We look forward to hearing from you.

MRS. PEARL C. BRACKETT

School administrator appointed Red Cross assistant manager

Milton H. Miller chairman of the Baltimore Regional Red Cross, announced this week the appointment of Mrs. Pearl C. Brackett as the first woman assistant manager of the regional office.

Mrs. Brackett replaces Charles L. Spoler who retired Monday after 34 years of service. Mrs. Brackett's new post become effective Aug. 1.

Named at the meeting of the Chapter Board of Directors recently, Mrs. Brackett joins the Red Cross after 36 years of service with the city school system. She has already announced she will retire from the system later this summer.

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Mrs. Brackett's volunteer involvement in Red Cross programs dates back to 1962 when she was a Red Cross Teacher Sponsor in the city schools. Since that time she has served on a number of local and national committees. She has been a member of the area Red Cross Board of Directors since 1970 and was appointed to the chapter's executive committee in 1971.

During the current year, Mrs. Brackett has served on the local blood program management committee, the United Fund Review Committee and the blood donor recruitment committee.

When he appointed Mrs. Brackett, Miller said; "Mrs. Brackett's professional experience and broad knowledge of the Baltimore community, and her concern for the people of our community, make her a great asset to our staff. She is just what the chapter needs during this period of expansion and change."

"There's no level of the local Red Cross organization with which I haven't worked, Mrs. Brackett said. Having been chosen to fill this vacancy is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

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Mrs. Brackett, an assistant superintendent for Educational Services with the schools, states that she has been contemplating retirement for some time.

"Having had 38 years of service in the system, I have for some time been contemplating a move into another arena of service," she comments "Over the years, the Department of Education and the Red Cross have worked closely together."

She expressed confidence in the direction the school system is taking under Superintendent John L. Crew, Sr.

"Under the leadership of Dr. Crew, where steps for reorganization are still being recommended, I envision a restoration of Baltimore as one of the leading school systems in the country," she said.

Dr. Crew says of Mrs. Brackett, "I extol her service and immediate support and efficiency given to me during my superintendency and over the years. The Red Cross is to be commended for seeing in Mrs. Brackett her capabilities of strengthening the organization."

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Among her many civic involvements, Mrs. Brackett is currently an academy leader in the National Academy of School Executives, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Council for Economic Educations in Maryland, a member of the Advisory Board to the Junior League of Baltimore, and serves on the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee for the Baltimore Museum of Art.

She also sits on the 8th Judicial Circuit Court Commission, is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Yale University Women's Organization, the Zonta International (a woman's service organization) and the Pierians.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors from such organizations as The Baltimore Urban League, United Negro College Fund, Mayoral Citation and the Yale Fellowship Award.

Hopkins pleads innocent in City Hall shooting

(UPI) — Pleas of innocent were entered Tuesday on behalf of Charles A. Hopkins, accused of murdering City Councilman Dominic Leone and wounding three public servants.

Attorney William Murphy Jr., speaking on his client's behalf during an informal arraignment, also indicated he will file a formal plea of insanity and requested a jury trial for his client, who is recovering from five bullet wounds in the City Hospitals.

Hopkins was named in 18 indictments stemming from an April 13 shooting spree through City Hall. He faces one charge of homicide, five of assault with intent to kill, three of assault, eight handgun violations and one charge of receiving a stolen weapon.

Criminal Court Judge Solomon Liss ordered a preliminary examination of Hopkins by the Supreme Bench medical officer in anticipation of the insanity plea.

Murphy said he will file a plea "dealing with the mental state" of his client at the time of the shooting.

Police said Hopkins went on a rampage because he was frustrated by the bureaucracy when denied a permit for a restaurant and evicted from his apartment.

Murphy objected to the preliminary examinstion, but Liss overruled him.

Hospital denies racism charge

Responding to a recent complaint of discrimination and racism against the Johns Hopkins Hospital lodged by the Community Health Council of Maryland, Dr. Robert M. Heyssel, executive vice president and director of the hospital told the AFRO that "equal opportunity for all persons is a fundamental policy of the Johns Hopkins Hospital."

Heyssel said he had not seen the complaint which was lodged with the Maryland Commission for Human Relations and was therefore unable to respond to its specific allegations. However, he maintained that the hospital's equal opportunity policy "applies to all aspects of our activities."

"The Johns Hopkins Hospital recruits, hires and promotes for all jobs without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or any other occupationally irrelevant condition," he said. "Patient admissions and activities related to patient care are administered without regard to any person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age."

"For the past three years, The Johns Hopkins Hospital has sent reports of its staffing patterns semi-annually to the Maryland Commission for Human Relations and annually to the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. Neither of these groups has indicated any problem with Hopkins' employment practices."

Folklorist at Koinonia

Folklorist Mary Carter Smith will present a multicultural experience in poetry, story-telling, and song at Koinonia on Sunday, July 4 at 8:00 p.m. The performance is entitled "Celebration of One World: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." Marty Carter Smith is a folklorist affiliated with Howard University in Washington, D.C. and has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Africa. Admission is $2.

Koinonia is a twenty-five-year old center for spiritual and personal growth located on Greenspring Valley Road north of Baltimore City. For further information telephone 456-6262.

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Koinonia (Koynoh-NEE-ah) is a non-profit spiritual and educational institution. For further information: Jo Lawrence, Office Coordinator.

FATHER JOSEPH FORRESTER, associate rector at St. James Episcopal Church, Arlington and Lafayetta Ave., will resign August 29. He has accepted a job as rector of the first black parish in the diocese of Chicago and will begin his new job in September.

Credentials fight gains 2 delegates

WASHINGTON — The Democratic Credentials Committee this week handed down an order that two blacks be appointed to the Pennsylvania delegation to the National convention in New York next month.

CORRECTION—Samuel T. Redd and his daughter, Miss Denise Redd attended the testimonial banquet for the Baptist Minister's Conference on June 21. The AFRO identified Redd in the June 26 edition as pastor of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. However, Redd is a mortician and his father, Rev. Samuel B. Redd, is pastor of the church. The AFRO regrets the error.

It did so in a way that found no fault with the state's method of selecting delegates they proposed that one of the blacks replace the delegate ho died this past weekend and the other replace another who resigned.

The Rev. Leroy Patrick, a Presbyterian minister in Pittsburgh, chairman of the local Board of Education and head of the Pennsylvania Black Democratic Committee, challenged the selection of 11 uncommitted Pennsylvania at-large delegates. He objected that they were all white.

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The 11 delegates were chosen by the State Democratic Committee in a meeting in Harrisburg June 2. The same meeting approved 33 at-large delegates committed to particular candidates, 8 of whom are black.

Committee action means that 19 of Pnnsylvania's entire convention delegation of 178 will be black.

A hearing officer rejected Patricks' challenge, saying party rules do not allow such a challenge solely on the grounds of composition. The Democrats had minority quotas in 1972, but they are no longer used.

Each state party has an "affirmative action plan" designed to encourage representation of women, youth and minorities. The only ground for challenge concerning minorities is that a plan was not followed.

The Credentials committee upheld the hearing officer, but ordered that blacks be appointed to the two vacancies.

Patrick said afterward that he went along with the compromise after he saw he could not win his full case in the committee.

Lt. Gov. Blair Lee II, of Maryland, proposed the compromise and said the Pennsylvania committee's selection of 11 white delegates as a group showed "monumental political stupidity, rather than a violation of any law. There is no penalty in our rules for stupidity."

Baltimore joins in Bell salute

Baltimore will participate in a nationwide bell ringing salute to freedom on July 4, at 2 p.m.

This time has been designated as the moment for all of Baltimore's bells to toll for 15 minutes in memory of the ringing of the Liberty Bell that proclaimed our independence on July 4, 1776. All Church, school, and institution buildings with bells are being urged to join in this Bicentennial event.

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A congressional resolution passed in June, 1963, proclaimed this bell salute to be an annual occurrence. This year nearly all cities and states will comply with this request.

An event of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration Philadelphia '76, Incorporated. It is being sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution in cooperation with Independence Hall Association, Independence Hall Bellringers Society, and "Let Freedom Ring," Incorporated, Mount Morris Illinois.

CHARLES T. PETTYJOHN has been named Senior Accountant at the Monumental Life Insurance Company. A staff accountant since 1972, he is a graduate of Delaware State College.

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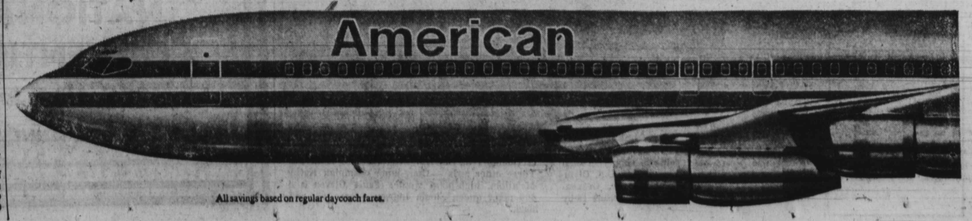

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