—Taxi driver

(Continued from Page 1)

So Raashidi left the White House without eliminating his source of income, but his anger is still very evident. He is one of the most vocal members of the Baltimore Minority Taxi Drivers Association and he says that Baltimore black taxi drivers in Baltimore are scared.

At the root of the problem is the high cost black drivers face when they attempt to get operator permits. The Public Service Commission no longer issues the permits so when someone wants a permit, they have to fine someone with a permit and negotiate with them.

Sometimes they have to pay as high as $18,000 such as the one purchased by Nathaniel Long who holds permit No. 760, according to a list furnished to the AFRO by Mr. Raashidi.

Raashidi maintains that this clearly violates Article 6, of the Public Service Commission rules and regulations governing the operation of tax cabs in Baltimore City which says that there is no charge for the issuance of any taxi permits.

"I don't foresee any additional issuance of permits at the present time," said Joseph Giardinia, Director of Transportation at the Public Service Commission.

"If you survey the number of taxicab drivers, you would find a lot of cabs not in operation. The commission hasn't issued permits because there is no need to issue permits."

Giardinia acknowledged that once a taxicab driver negotiates with a permit holder they may be a wide range of prices, depending on whether the deal is cash, or on a time basis.

One cab driver, Daniel Setzer, paid $16,500 for each of his five permits, according to the list. Other drivers who paid outrageous sums for their permits were Otis Jones, $16,000; Davis Lipscomb, $16,000; and H. Setzer, $12,500.

The late Del. Arthur G. Murphy, D-Baltimore, before his death attempted to crack the taxi cab price wall by introducing House Bil No. 1948, but he was unsuccessful because a well -organized taxi cab lobby was able to persuade a substantial amount of delegates not to vote for it.

The Minority Taxi Drivers Association is planning to submit a redrafted version of this bill to the state legislature this fall.

Below are some of its components.

— The Public Service Commission, taxi cab division, must strictly enforce Article 6 of the rules and regulations governing the operation of taxi cabs in Baltimore City. Deem illegal the further sale of any taxi permit.

— Establish and fund the Arthur G. Murphy Memorial Fund. Set a price of $16,500 as a fair amount to justly compensate any current owner - operator permit holder for each permit he was assessed for its obtainment.

— Recall all permits being held by person other than single owner - operator permit holders. Small fleet owners will be allowed to retain one permit which will afford these persons single owner - operator status.

— Reallocate recalled and revoked taxi permits by instituting a taxi permit lottery. Participants must have current public service badges and at least 1500 man hours worked in the taxi industry as of July 1, 1978.

The group proposes that winners of the lottery receive a free public service taxi cab permit and a $5,000 grant from the Arthur G. Murphy Memorial Fund which will enable these persons to buy efficient cars to be converted into cabs.

The black taxi drivers proposals are creative, but unfortunately the Maryland Public Service Commission has a history of denying operator permits to black drivers.

In January, 1940 the Deluxe Cab Company, a black - owned enterprise asked in court that the Public Service Commission's ceiling of 1,000 taxicab permits for Baltimore City be declared invalid.

When Deluxe applied to the PSC for 25 cab permits, it was turned down in October, 1945. When Deluxe took the case to Judge Michael J. Manley, in Circuit Court No. 2, he concluded that he could not upset the administrative rulings of the administrative board on the ground of caprice or arbitrariness.

But the very next day after the Manley decision, the PSC issued permits to some 158 veterans to operate cabs. In other words, it appeared to upset its own ceiling rule.

On June 3, 1946, Judge Manley took his second action. He remanded the case to the PSC. By Sept. 26, 1946, Judge Manley had dismissed the second appeal taken from the Public Service Commission's action in refusing 25 taxicab permits sought by DeLuxe.

Today, the commission continues to maintain its policy of not issuing permits, and persons interested in obtaining them just pay the price, even if it is as high as $18,000 for something that was at one time free.

So it is easy to see why Raashidi is mad. He talks as though some widespread protests may break out very soon and black cab drivers join forces.

"We risk our lives every night," Raashidi said. "With stickup people and the possibility of accidents, we know all the elements involved, but there is just no choice."

—Pupils show gains

(Continued from Page 1)

Math scores were a bit lower overall ranging from 78 percent in the 12th grade; 75 percent in the 11th grade; 40 percent in the 10th; 33 percent in the 9th; 18 percent in the 8th; 19 percent in the 6th; 33 percent in the 4th grade.

Grade four and six did not take the reading test while the third, fifth and seventh grades did not participate in the math tests.

Thomas Foster, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction said the reason for this was because some of the exams were still being tried on small pilot groups.

School officials justified the low scores on grounds tha many of the classes are being taught below grade level, so that the student would not have been exposed to materials in the test.

Dr. Crew said he has some doubts about the validity of tests in general. He claims that although Baltimore students have performed poorly on standardized tests in recent years, this type of test should have had an 80 or 90 percent pass rate.

"I think some of the items on the test may be too difficult for the grade level," he said. "We may have to do what anybody else does, revise the test."

Representatives of the two teachers unions — the Baltimore Teachers Union and the Public School Teachers Association — claim that the poor scores can be blamed on the fact that there are not enough teachers to go around.

A spokesman for the BTU said the scores prove their point that "You can't talk about quality education and improving proficiency while you're letting teachers go."

Moses Holmes, spokesman for the PSTA, said the school system's priorities seem to be turned upside in delivering sound education to the students of Baltimore.

"It's not appropriate for priorities to be on the physical while paying very little attention to humanist needs," he said.

He added when you increase the teacher student ratio you decrease the effectiveness to teach."

DHR closed Sept. 4, 12

All offices of the Maryland Department of Human Resources will be closed Monday, Sept. 4 Labor Day and Tuesday, Sept. 12, Defenders' Day.

Claimants who regularly report on Monday should report on Tuesday, Sept. 5, and those who report on Tuesday, should report on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1978 at the exact time assigned.

—Inmate

(Continued from Page 1)

One woman caller said the case was being kept secret because it was embarrassing to correctional officials and the fear of the fact that inmates were physically abused.

Another tipster simply said, "You people must investigate that shameful incident at Hagerstown," and hung up.

However, the AFRO came to a stone wall when it tried to look into the case. Nobody was talking.

The information office of the Division of Correction said the state police were investigating the case; the state police said they could not give out any details until the Hagerstown state's attorney's office gave them the green light; State's Atty. Jack Holiday said he learned about the case only minutes before this reporter called Thursday and did not have the facts.

Holiday said he had an appointment with a state trooper investigating the incident later Thursday to learn the facts of the case. He said his office usually receives complaints from time to time from inmates.

"We follow all these complaints through. Some of them are genuine and are persecuted and others are just unfounded. I assure you we shall look into the rape case," he said.

—Rapist

(Continued from Page 1)

Sgt. Joseph Giffert of Southwestern Distriet says the jogger normally wears a navy blue outfit and a hood drawn tight over his face. The victims say they can only see his eyes and nose.

The women who have been attacked told police they think the jogger is familiar with the area and is usually hiding behind bushes or steps when they are walking down the street.

One victim who lives in the 2700 block Lauretta Ave., says she was attacked Aug. 2 around 12:45 a.m.

"I was walking down the street and a man came up behind me and put his arms around my neck. The man said, 'Come on and go with me,' and when I refused to go, he started beating me."

A woman sitting on her porch in the 1100 block Poplar Grove around 3 a.m. June 8 says, "All of a sudden a man came up on my porch and put a gun in my face. When I started to scream he ran away."

BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN
(Registered U. S. Patent Office)
Second Class postage paid at Baltimore, Md.
Circulation audited by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC)
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Company, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. Phone (301) 728-6300.
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State wants extension to end prison crowding

The state has asked for an extension of an April 1, 1979, deadline to end double-celling of inmates, which federal judges have ruled unconstitutional, at the House of Correction in Jessup and the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore.

U.S. District Judges C. Stanley Blair and Alexander Harvey II issued their rulings last May and ordered the state to stop it by April 1, 1979. They also ordered 1,100 prisoners released to relieve overcrowding.

Assistant General Stephen Caplis requested the delay at a hearing in order to give the state more time to construct facilities to eliminate overcrowding at both penal institutions.

Legal Aid attorney Richard North, representing the inmates, opposed the request.

"The state created the problem," he said. "They have refused to correct the problem. I don't think they need additional time."

Caplis argued for a postponement until the 4th U.S. Circuit Court appeals hears the case. He said the state intends to eliminate double celling, but that it will take until June 1980 to phase it out completely.

Blair said he had no "reason to question the good faith of state authorities," but "every reason to question state politics and the construction program."

Caplis said construction is expected to begin soon on a 500-bed facility at Jessup and a diagnostic center at the penitentiary.

Baltimore Attorney Paul D. Beckman, who also represents the inmates, said there was no reason to delay the order because he doesn't expect the appeals court to overturn the decision.

"There are psychotic and mentally ill people who are being warehoused and who are not being treated," he said. "Do you simply warehouse them or treat them?

"The state has been aware of the problem for many years but it has continued to snowball," he said.

Ms. Barbara Cooper named NAACP program director

Barbara A. Cooper was recently selected as program director for the NAACP. Her duties include coordination and implementation of all programs operating under the jurisdiction of the NAACP.

Ms. Cooper will assume her new position effective Sept. 1, 1978.

She is a native Baltimorean, attended Towson State University, received an Associate Arts Degree from Community College of Baltimore and attended the Baltimore City public schools.

Ms. Cooper has participated in church, civic and community activities.

Most recently, she coordinated the Voter Registration Drive for the NAACP. She organized the local Miss NAACP Contest and has planned various workshops for the youth members of the NAACP.

She has been an active volunteer of the NAACP for the past three years. She served as co - chairperson for the Youth Work Committee, Youth Advisor, assisted with public relations and fund raising for the ACT-SO Project and solicited memberships for the NAACP.

She has been an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church for 19 years.

Ms. Cooper worked for the Baltimore City Public Schools for the past nine years in various positions.

"I am keenly interested in planning meaningful programs that will enable the NAACP to meet its goals and objectives," said Ms. Cooper.

She added, "I will honor this position with humility and dignity."

She replaces Ms. Michele Bland.

Barbara Cooper
Program Director of the Baltimore Branch

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—Mitchell

(Continued from Page 1)

Mitchell couldn't understand this inconsistency, either.

"It was they who introduced the subject of salary," Lydell told the writer early Thursday morning before leaving for his daily workout at Druid Hill Park.

"Lee and I were there to answer questions (and to ask some) with regard to their treatment of me as an integral part of their team.

"I do want to clarify one thing, though. I have never said the Colts are racist.

"I was stung by a remark that was made in an early talk, but I have no intention to say what that remark was.

"I thought it was uncalled for and my agent thought the same."

Does Mitchell have any comment on the proposed trade to San Diego?

Overnight reports indicated (Thursday morning) that Mitchell had been traded to the Chargers in exchange for sore - legged Joe Washington and a high draft choice, contingent on both players' acceptance of the conditions.

"I will have to think about that for awhile," Lydell told the AFRO. "I'm not sure at this point what I want to do.

"A lot of things have to be clarified before any decision is reached.

IKE DIXON BANKS AT ADVANCE

THRIFT SAVER — Isaiah ('Ike') Dixon, longtime supporter of Advance Federal, shown opening a new Thrift Club Savings Account with Advance vice president, Claudia Dennis. Dixon, an insurance broker, is also a delegate to the State Legislature from Baltimore city's 38th District.

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—Bay College

(Continued from Page 1)

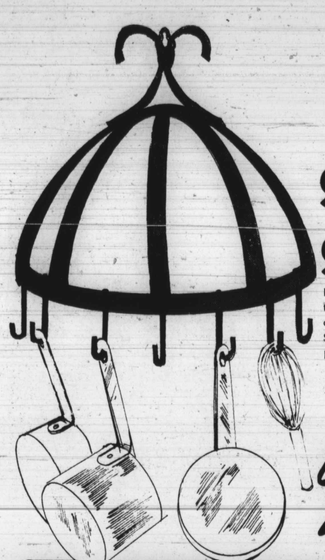
Howard, who filed a notice with the state board this week that Bay intended to appeal a decision closing the school, refused last week to turn over the records to board officials.

The state board returned to the school Friday to obtain the records so officials can place eligible Bay students in other area colleges.

Friday is the final day Bay must wind up its affairs under the decision.

According to one board official, the board is at a loss to understand why Howard and the school administration refused to turn over the records.

The official pointed out the school is not expected to open in the fall and even if officials won the appeal they could not be ready to open until January thus forcing the students to miss a semester.



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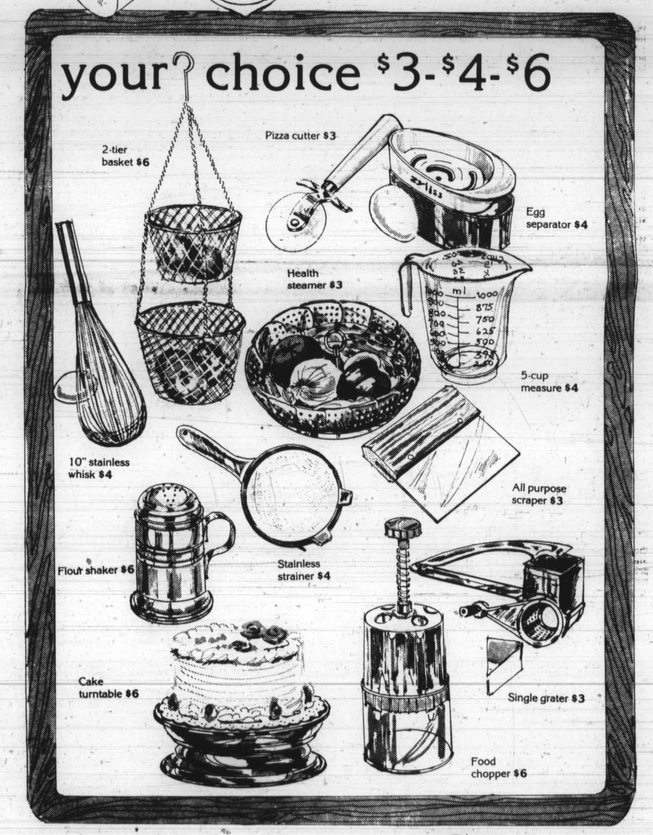

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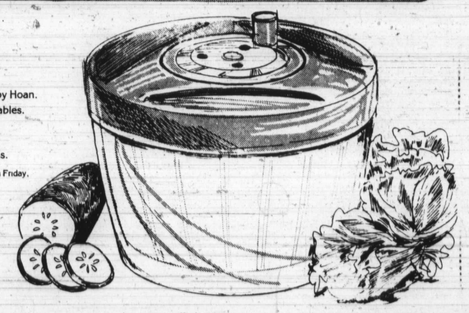

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