RECOGNITION CEREMONY — Thomas R. Hunt (C) of Annapolis was honored recently for four years of service as chairman of the Anne Arundel County Personnel Board by County Executive Robert Pascal (R). Hunt, who is active in numerous civic and community activities, resigned from the board last month. Looking on is Don A. Pennington, the county's personnel officer. The bard which Hunt chaired hears cases of employee grievance in the government's merit system.

BG&E may refund $

The Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. filed a plan with the Public Service Commission to return $6.4 million to electricity customers as ordered by the commission, a utility spokesman said.

Utility spokesman Charles Franklin said that if the company plan is approved a residential customer using 580 kilowatt hours a month will receive a total refund of $7.59 in January.

Franklin said the refuns will not appear as a separate credit on customer bill but will be a reduction in the fuel rate that is used to figure the cost of kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Franklin said the commission ordered the refunds in November because of a new law that changed the methods of computing electric fuel rates, the portion of bills that cover costs to utilities for fuel to generate electricity.

A law passed by the 1978 Maryland General Assembly that went into effect Oct. 1 required the commission to approve all utility fuel rate increases or decreases of more than 5 percent.

Franklin said under the law utilities are not allowed to increase or decrease fuel rates less than 5 percent.

He said most of the BG and E refunds were necessary because fuel rate profits from the sale of electricity to an out-of-state utility were not included in company calculations whereas the PSC said the profits should have been.

The refunds only apply to electric customers, not gas customers, Franklin said.

Being stored in warehouse

Group to protest further use of S. African steel

Another demonstration to protest use of Southafrican steel to build Baltimore's $740 million subway scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 23, at 11 a.m. on the corner of Lexington Avenue and Eutaw Street.

Anthony Robinson, spokesman for a newly formed organization called the Anti-Apartheid and racism Coalition, said the demonstration will protest not only the continuous use of steel to build the Coldspring Lane station Reisterstown Road - Rogers Avenue Line but the storage of the steel at a near by warehouse.

Robinson told the AFRO that coalition officials discovered the steel was being stored in and around a warehouse at Wabash Wvenue and Northern Parkway behind a department store in the 5700 block Wabash Ave.

"We believe that the steel is still coming in and its being stored in the area," said Robinson. "That's the reason we're protesting."

The Anti - Apartheid and Racism Colalition was founded after a series of AFRO articles exposed the use of South African steel in building the subway and the ownership of Carling National Brewery t a south African conglomerate.

The AFRO expos also sparked the city council to investigate the city's investments in South African companies.

Robinson said the organization consist of several smaller organizations and have received the support of area ministers and Rep. Parren J. Mitchell.

Seniors, crime course

"Crime Prevention for Senior Citizens," a free, non-credit course for persons 60 years of age and older, is scheduled to be offered at Anne Arundel Community College beginning Jan. 18.

This class in which crimes that occur against senior citizens will be discussed along with methods of crime prevention, will be held at the Community College's Glen Burnie Center.

It is being offered by the College's Office of Community and Extension Services and Evening Administration.

"Crime Prevention for Senior Citizens" will meet on Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Jan. 18 to May 3.

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Home for Christmas

266 inmates freed

Two-hundred sixty-six prison and jail inmates from around Maryland will be home unexpectedly for Christmas.

The prisoners were set free by Acting Gov. Blair Lee III, who followed a longstanding tradition among Maryland governors by using his executive authority for the Christmas amnesty program.

"It is a pleasure for me to continue this tradition of allowing these men and women to spend Christmas with their families and friends," Lee said.

The inmates' sentences were all due to expire within 90 days and each had displayed good conduct and received favorable recommendations from their superintendents or wardens, the governor's office said.

Those whose sentences were commuted included 171 men and women incarcerated in various state institutions and 95 men and women from local jails in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Washington and Worcester counties and the city of Baltimore.

The list of eligible inmates was submitted by state and local prison officials to the Division of Parole and Probation for review and then forwarded to Lee.

Lee asked that the names of those granted amnesty not be published to protect their privacy.

ON LEGAL STAFF — The appointment of John Aaron Murphy Jones, Esq., to the AFRO legal staff has been announced by John H. Murphy III, chairman of the Board of Directors of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper Company. Jones, a graduate of the University of Southern California Law School and a member of the Philadelphia Bar, is the grandson of the late Dr. Carl Murphy, AFRO editor-publisher. Attorney Jones will continue offices with Charles P. Howard, Esq. of Baltimore.

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CONGRATULATIONS — Jacqueline B. Matthews of Annapolis, an employee of the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, received a special commendation recently from County Executive Robert A. Pascal. Miss Matthews coordinated her department's participation in the United Way fundraising drive and succeeded in raising contributions by 50 percent over last year. The ceremony was held at the Arundel Center.

Educator believes World History should be required

Maryland educators should not follow the national trend of offering a varied social studies curriculum at the expense of requiring high school students to take a World History course, the president of the state Board of Education explained.

Richard Schifter said he will propose a change in the state graduation bylaws that would require Maryland high school students to pass a World History course in order to receive their diploma.

He said he plans to hold a meeting of 10 social studies experts in January to review the state's social studies curriculum and give their views about requiring a World History course.

World History currently is an elective course in state high schools. Enrollment has dropped from 60 percent of high school students to 20 percent in the past decade. Schifter said.

"In the 1960s, a good many high schools started diversifying their social studies offerings," he said. "As a result, youngsters don't take World History anymore."

Schifter said surveys by the national center of education statistics of social studies enrollments in 1961 and 1973 indicated that while secondary school enrollment grew 59 percent, world history enrollment increased only 5 percent.

By contrast, enrollment jumped 102 percent in economics, 175 percent in Sociology and 323 percent in psychology.

Schifter said, "I don't care if it is a national trend. As far as I'm concerned, it's a bad trend."

Two dozen social studies courses are listed in the curriculum of Baltimore City High Schools. The subjects include Political Science, Urban Geography, Economics, African Cultures and Criminal and Civil Law.

Anne Arundel County Schools offer electives such as sociology, Psychology, Philosophysand even Soviet Studies.

Baltimore County schools require World History but offer a variety of social studies electives to seniors.

Howard county students may select from such electives as Asian History, World Religions and Black Studies.

Although Schifter approves of the attention being given to non-western cultures, he said too many social studies electives have become "a matter of giving in to the youth revolution of the sixties by making school easier."

He said his proposal to include a World History requirement would be discussed at public hearings after which it will be acted on by the state board of education.

Hotel arsonist held on $250,000 bail

A 22-year-old maintenance worker at the Lord Baltimore Hotel was arrested Wednesday and charged with setting four fires at the hotel last week.

Chester Gawronski, who has worked at the Hotel since last May, was arrested at 2 a.m. Wednesday after being questioned by police and fire investigators. He was taken to Central District Jail and held in lieu of $250,000 bail.

Baltimore District Judge Carl Bachrach set Gawronski's trial for Jan. 15.

The first two fires broke out on the 11th and 12th floors Dec. 11. The second two erupted Dec. 14 in two vacant rooms on the fourth floor, causing minor injuries to two other hotel employees and forcing hundreds of guests to evacuate.

Police spokesman Dennis Hill said the fires were "not related" to the fact that the "Hello Dolly" cast was staying at the hotel.

Investigators from the police and fire departments and the state's attorney's office spent most of their time interviewing employees and former employees, Hill said.

Police said they questioned Gawronski in the first round of interviews last week, then brought him back for further questioning about midnight Tuesday. He was arrested two hours later.

Investigators said Gawronski reported discovering the first three fires, which all occurred while he was working. They said he probably set the fourth fire when he went off duty.

All four fires were set with matches and paper, investigators said.

Police would not give details of their evidence against Gawronski. Earlier, police said some clues were left at the scene, although much of the evidence was thrown out by the first firefighters to arrive.

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Black student suspensions increase in Harford County

Suspensions of black students in Harford County schools are increasing, and one school official says black parents endorse the get-tough policy.

However, a spokeswoman for Concerned Citizens of Harford County, a black parents group, says the group will study information about the suspensions before commenting.

Twenty-six percent of the students expelled through October were blacks, who make up 10 percent of the school population. Last year, 17 percent of those suspended were black.

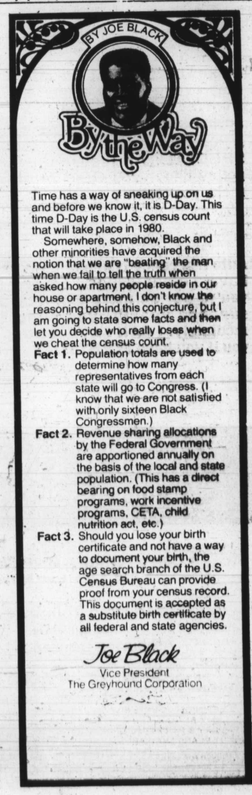
Harford County was criticized two years ago for suspending black students in higher proportions than whites.

School Superintendent Alphonso Roberty said many principals relaxed disciplinary guidelines after the complaints.

"But people are now saying, 'make them behave,'" he said. "They are saying you can't get away with that type of tommyrot these days, and a lot of the commentary that I hear is coming from black parents."

Concerned Citizens of Harford County, which originally challenged suspension procedure two years ago, asked for updated material on suspensions last month, a spokeswoman said.

"We're not exactly sure what this means," said Riwald Deloree Richardson. "We suspected that they (black student suspensions) had gone up, but now we're trying to reach our own conclusions based on what the school board gave us and some of our own information."



Time has a way of sneaking up on us and before we know it, it is D-Day. This time D-Day is the U.S. census count that will take place in 1980.

Somewhere, somehow, Black and other minorities have acquired the notion that we are "beating" the man when we fail to tell the truth when asked how many people reside in our house or apartment. I don't know the reasoning behind this conjecture, but I am going to state some facts and then let you decide who really loses when we cheat the census count.

Fact 1. Population totals are used to determine how many representatives from each state will go to Congress. (I know that we are not satisfied with only sixteen Black Congressmen.)

Fact 2. Revenue sharing allocations by the Federal Government are apportioned annually on the basis of the local and state population. (This has a direct bearing on food stamp programs, work incentive programs, CETA, child nutrition act, etc.)

Fact 3. Should you lose your birth certificate and not have a way to document your birth, the age search branch of the U.S. Census Bureau can provide proof from your census record. This document is accepted as a substitute birth certificate by all federal and state agencies.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation