—Jesse Thomas dies

(Continued from page 1)

The operations success allowed Mrs. Thomas to sit and use a wheelchair thus regaining a relatively normal lifestyle. Mrs. Thomas was released from the hospital last month and spent time at her Bowers Avenue home with her family.

The operations success allowed Mrs. Thomas to sit and use a wheelchair thus regaining a relatively normal lifestyle. Mrs. Thomas was released from the hospital last month and spent time at her Bowers Avenue home with her family.

Mrs. Thomasina Byrd sister of Mrs. Thomas told the AFRO "We were glad Jesse was able to come home. She would spend the day looking at the television and talking with the family and her friends."

The night before Mrs. Thomas returned to the hospital by ambulance her husband Ray Thomas stated "I had taken Jesse to the hospital on Monday and the doctor gave her a needle. When she returned home Monday she was in a daze and restless." Thomas stated his wife was not in pain when she returned to the hospital.

Seated at the dining room table Mrs. Byrd stated "When J sse was taken back to the hospital she did not recognize her own sister. I always felt it was Gods will if he was going to bring her out of her illness. God did it for the best."

Mrs. Byrd said "I would have prayer-offerings and sing for my sister her fa vorite hymn while she was in the hospital. Her favorite hymns were "Weve Come This Far By Faith" and "Bad Never Fails". Ithough she did not respond to respond when I was singing and having prayer with her last week I felt she could hear me" said Mrs. Byrd with a quiver in her voice.

Speaking of his wife Thomas said he loved her and was glad she was able to spend time at home. He told the AFRO "She is gone but the hospital bill is still here. Holding a white piece of paper in his hand Thomas said "This is the first hospital bill for $86894.40 and does not include the second bill and additional expenses after she came home."

Thomas says he does not know how the bill will get paid. "I plan to continue working and taking care of my daughter. Right now I am not going to worry about the bill" he told the AFRO.

Dr. Charles C. Edwards Mrs. Thomas surgeon last year said Mrs. Thomas kidneys were in a weakened state so this infection was not as responsive to medication as you would typically expect and led to her rapid decline.

Dr. Edwards stated even during Mrs. Thomas last illness the spinal prosthesis continued to function. Before the operation Mrs. Thomas was confined to a stretcher because the tumor had damaged her spine and caused paralysis in her lower body.

She was first admitted in the hospital in May 1979 with back pain and paralysis in her lower body. A cat scan revealed a large soft tissue tumor on the spine.

Four hooks two bolts and four polyurethane implants were inserted posterior to the spinal cord to resist rotation forces. The center of the prosthesis is designed to accommodate a large amount of bone graft to eventually fuse the spine.

Dr. Edwards said Mrs. Thomas state of consciousness was gradually dropping during her last days. However he stated Mrs. Thomas appeared stronger when he last checked her around 6:30 p.m. April 2.

Funeral services for Mrs. Thomas will be held April 7. The family will receive friends at 7 p.m. at Christian Community Church of God 2701 Baltimore Street with last rites starting at 7:30 p.m.

Born in Winsboro S. C. Mrs. Thomas came to Baltimore to live in 1965. She was married for 12 years. In addition to her husband she is survived by a daughter Felicia Thomas; mother Mrs. Thomasina Kennedy; three sisters Mrs. Thomasina Byrd Mrs. Maude Stallings and Mrs. Bernice Davis; two brothers George and David Kennedy.

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

$86,894.40 BILL — Ray Thomas and daughter, Felicia are shown looking at a hospital bill he has to pay following the historic operation his wife had at University Hospital. Mrs. Jesse Thomas, the world's first spinal replacement patient, died Thursday of a bacterial infection that spread to her brain.

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) 728-6200.
John H. Murphy 3rd, Chairman of Board; John J. Oliver Sr., President; Mae E. Dyson, Secretary; George C. Lorher, Treasurer; Frederick A. Howard, Vice President-Production; Raymond Boone, Editor-Vice President; Kenneth O. Wilson, Vice President-Advertising; Ronald L. Jackson, Vice President-Circulation; Ralph Matthews Jr., Managing Editor; Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor.
NITE & SATURDAY PHONE NUMBERS
CITY DESK 728-6200
CITY DESK 728-6201
CITY DESK 728-6202
EXECUTIVE OFFICES 728-6203
FRONT DESK 728-6204
CIRCULATION 728-6205
DISPATCH 728-6207
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 728-6208
A CHAMPION OF CIVIC WELFARE AND THE SQUARE DEAL
National Adv. Representatives Amalgamated Publishers Inc. 45 W. 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036
AFFILIATED NEWSPAPERS
WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN 2002 11th St., N.W. 20001 (202) 332-0080
RICHMOND AFRO-AMERICAN 301 E. Clay Street 23219 (804) 648-6479
NEW JERSEY AFRO-AMERICAN 11 Hill St., Newark 07102 Suites 2006/1 (201) 2943
AFRO Philadelphia Bureau 1612 Market St., Philadelphia 19103 TEL. (215) 564-3871
Subscription Rates
6 Months $9
1 Year $17
2 Years $30
3 Years $40
(You save $11)
Rates for ONE edition only

—Dennis, Johnny

(Continued from Page 1)

Judge Martin Greenfeld is presiding at the trial that will continue Monday. Holly told the seven black and five white jurors, "I had a great deal of concern that someone would take what was said seriously.

I was also concerned about being a black professional and being in the public eye.

"I know I have a certain responsibility particularly to young people who look up to those in the public eye as examples of what they can do. It disturbed me that this remark might have a negative effect on their feelings about me."

The comment on Walkers show prompted anonymous telephone calls to tell Holly he was no better than other looters. Holly testified.

Holly who now walks with a limp said he was nervous while testifying. He told the jurors he has had problems eating and sleeping and continues to have the anxiety over the aftermath of Walkers comment. "I am reluctant to be around people I dont know" he testified.

Dressed in a light green three piece suit Walker told the jury he was only making a joke about Holly. Hollys attorney Marvin Ellin asked Walker "If Dennis Holly was white would you have thought the remark was funny?"

Walker testified "You are trying to say all the looters were black and that is not what I was trying to say." Ellin stated Walkers humor resulted in Johns Hopkins Hospital being flooded with phone calls when he stated over the radio that Elvis Presley was a patient at the hospital. He asked Walker "Didnt people take you serious about Elvis Presley and call the hospital?"

Walker testified "As Johnny Walker I have tried to be fair.

DISC JOCKEY — WFBR DJ Johnny Walker, whose real name is James Embrey, leaves court with his wife April

Former TV anchorman Dennis Holly is suing Walker for $2 million for slander.

—Conaway elected

(Continued from page 1)

Since the 1980 session began in January there have been reports that the group was divided in its support of the current chairman Robert Douglass who dropped out of the race last week.

The caucus which usually holds its elections the first week of the 90-day General Assembly voted to change its rules to allow Douglass to seek a consecutive term. That decision held up the voting process until this week.

But the change has been made permanent and the caucus will now hold its elections the last week of the session.

Conaway who recently served as the chairman for the groups successful annual fundraiser stated "When you elected chairman the first week of the session that doesnt give you much of a chance to prepare a well formulated agenda.

"This way I'll have until next January to put together a good legislative package."

When asked how he plabbeplanned to bring the group together he said "The chairman has to establish credibility and then work with the people to gain their support.

"You dont have to be liked just respected. If youre respected then theyll follow you."

Some caucus memb members recently criticized Douglass for promising votes for a bill to extend theliquor sales hours for Black night clubs over in return for support for the District of Columbia voting rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

This action miffed several of the black legislators because Douglass did it without consulting all of the members. However Douglass stated that he felt it was in the best interest of the caucus to keep the information under wraps until the voting rights bill was approved.

There were also reports that it would be recommended that the chairman of the caucus not introduce any personal legislation concentrating total effort on those issues raised by the caucus.

Conaway stated that although no such recommendation had been made he would be leaning toward that philosophy during his chairmanship.

Brailey who unsuccessfully opposed Conaway for the post said he was not entirely pleased with the way the election process was conducted.

Sources had reported that the election was going to be a hot and heavy session with some members walking out in protest over the candidates.

But the hour-long meeting moved in an orderly fashion. Brailey commented "It ran so fast that nobody had a chance for any discussion."

Then Brailey added "I think it was a foregone conclusion that he would win. I also think he was being supported by the outgoing chairman."

Under the new rules candidates had to file in advance and submit a resume to the nominations committee comprised of Senators Tommie Broadwater Clarence Blount Arlene Allen and Delegates Margaret Murphy and Joseph Chester.

In addition to chairman the group elected Nathaniel Exum Di Prince Georges County as vice chairman. Exum had been a candidate for chairman but dropped out last week. Margaret Murphy D-41st was elected secretary and Tommie Broadwater Prince Georges County senator is the new treasurer.

—First bank?

Continued from Page 1)

During the governor's weekly press conference on Thursday, Gov. Harry Hughes stated that he was concerned about allegations that Gibbs was lobbying for the interest rate bill.

But Gibbs told the AFRO that while he was in Annapolis Monday he phoned his office and received a message to contact Delegate Rawlings. He later learned that both Rawlings and Dean wanted to meet with him.

He denied making a deal with the delegates and said "It was not my understanding they would be voting in favor of the bill if I signed the charter.

"I made the decision to sign the banks charter over the weekend. It just so happens that this bill came up on Monday."

Gibbs also explained that he met with the founders of the bank which was formerly named Harbor National Bank and agreed to make a decision on the charter by March 30. He was then contacted last week by the banks chairman Virgil Sneed to determine if a decision had been made.

Sneed could not be reached for comment and Joseph Chester Jr. treasurer for Harbor Bank and son of Delegate Joseph Chester Sr. refused comment stating all inquiries should be handled by Sneed.

Plans for the bank which was originally conceived by businessman Harry Smith began in 1973 and hit a snag by the spring of 1975 when sales of the stock at $5 per share fell short by $1.5 million.

The bank is located in downtown Baltimore at Eutaw and Fayette Streets site of the old First National Bank building.

—$15 million

(Continued from Page 1)

McGee's parents asked for $5 million in compensatory damages, $5 million in punitive damages and $5 million violated his constitutional rights to life and liberty without due process.

"The improvident and misguided actions of

Chicken George

"Say goodbye to ho-hum chicken, say hello to Chicken George"

OPEN AT MONDAWMIN MALL

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 12 midnight ● Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m to 3 a.m. ● Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.

A product of CHICKEN GEORGE CHICKEN Inc.

NOTICE OF MTA PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Mass Transit Administration of the Maryland Department of Transportation will hold public hearings on a proposal for increases in the fare structure for all areas served by the Mass Transit Administration.

These public hearings will be held on the following dates and at the respective locations

Monday, May 5, 1980
2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.
State Highway Administration Hearing Room
300 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Wednesday, May 7, 1980
2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.
Baltimore County Hearing Room
Baltimore County Office Building
111 Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Md. 21204

Thursday, May 8, 1980
2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.
Glen Burnie Improvement Association Building
Crain Highway and 1st Avenue, S.E.
Glen Burnie, Md. 21061

The details of the proposed fare increase and adjustment are available for public inspection at MTA offices, 109 E. Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

L. A. Kimball
MASS TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR

County NAACP questions police handling of Clay shooting case

The Howard County NAACP and Rep. Parren J. Mitchell D-7th are expected to question the Howard County Police Departments handling of a fatal shooting incident involving wealthy contractor Robert L. Clay and his brother Raymond Clay Jr. at a press conference set for today (Friday April 4.)

On the eve of this conference Robert Fulton Dashiells attorney representing Robert Clay gave the AFRO a statement regarding his client.

Clay and his brother are charged in the shooting death of George Webb 21 of the 9300 block All Saints Road in Laurel Md. on Sunday March 30.

"We have conducted a preliminary investigation of the incident giving rise to those charges and we have concluded that the charges against our client are totally unfounded.

"Our investigation shows that five individuals came onto our clients property bearing firearms and in fact shot at our client in response which his brother returned fire in self defense. We do not believe that these facts support a charge of first degree murder or for any other criminal charge on the part of our clients.

"As a matter of fact we are puzzled somewhat and in fact even concerned by the fact that in none of the police reports or charging documents is there any reference at all to the weapons which these persons brought on my clients property in spite of the fact that the police recovered one of the handguns used by these persons during the course of the investigation.

"All of the facts concerning this incident will of course be brought out in trial. However I do emphasize that as far as we have determined my clients brother acted in complete self defense and our client never had a gun and never fired a gun at all in the incident.

"We have been asked by the Howard County NAACP to participate in a press conference concerning this matter which they have scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday morning. The NAACP is of the opinion that whats really involved here is an attempt to smear the good name and reputation of one of the countys leading citizens. They are particularly concerned because that citizen in this case happens to be black.

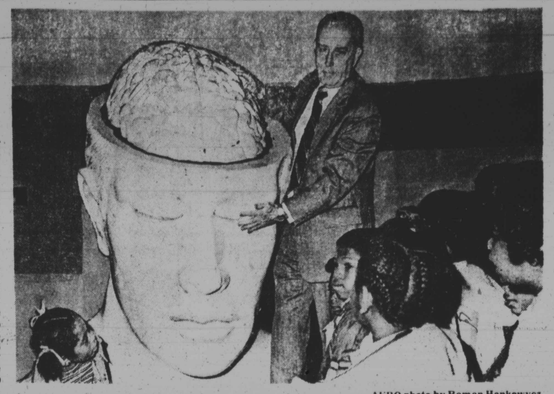
"We of course have no way of knowing whether the Howard County police harbored any ulterior or improper motive in connection with the handling of this case, We hasten to add however that the facts as they appear to us support the position which has been communicated to us by the NAACP."

Rep. Mitchell explained his involvement in the Clay matter. He said "I am concerned about how the whole incident was handled. It has been reported to me by counsel in the case of Mr. Clay that there was an earlier incident in which these people threatened the Clay family.

"The police were called and Mr. Clay and members of his family told the police while they were there these people are still threatening to kill us. If indeed threats were made against his family why didnt they take action against the people? I am going to follow this very closel.

A trial date has not been set for the Clay brothers.

ticularly concerned because that citizen in this case happens to be black.



AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

BIG BRAIN — Mayor William Donald Schaefer shows city students a much-larger-than-life model of the human brain at a kick-off ceremony designating April as "Baltimore City Month" at the Maryland Science Center. Schaefer, accompanied by fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Matthew A. Henson Elementary School, toured the center's exhibits Tuesday, April 1. "Baltimore City Month," named in gratitude to Baltimore City residents and employees, will continue through April 30 with a 20 percent discount for city residents and employees.

Bus fares to go up July 1

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

L.A. Kimball head of the Mass TrAdministration told reporters Thursday April 3 that the MTA plans to increase the current bus fare to 50 cents as of July 1 1980.

Kimball also announced several additional price increases and blamed the fare increase on "increased operating costs."

"Over the last several years" he stated "The Mass Transit Administration has experienced successive operating deficits each larger than the last without any promise of relief."

He said that operating expenses exceeded the company's revenues by $29,742,000 in 1979 which works out to 31 cents per passenger.

Kimball said that for the MTA to continue to receive subsidies from the state fare paying passengers should contribute 50 percent to the operating costs of the bus system. The MTA expects an operating deficit of $37 million dollars.

But passengers dont see it that way.

"They say they need that money for fuel?" asked Brenda Loving an employee at the AFRO.

"Then why dont they find something cheaper to run the busses on?"

Another passenger smiled glumly and said "I guess ill have to just walk more." Rhonda Frazier another AFRO employee said that she was just being forced to choose the least costly alternative.

"I have to catch the bus or drive in order to get where Im going but its cheaper to catch the bus than it is to buy gas."

The hordes of teenagers and children who throng the bustops on Sundays in order to take advantage of the 60 cent Super Sunday passes will also feel the pinch as all special fares will be eliminated.

The monthly pass for zone 1 riders will increase to $19 from the current rate of $14 Express and premium fares would be increased to 15 cents and 30 cents from 10 cents and 15 cents respectively.

The only fares which would remain unchanged are senior citizen discountstudent fares handicapped pand service for patrons. However these two groups will be required to pay for their transfers and zone changes.

The MTA also announced that the current 10 zones used in determining fare based on distance would be consolidated into five zones.

A series of public meetings are scheduled so that citizens can have the opportunity to express their opinions regarding the changes. The sites for the hearings is well as their dates appear below. Monday May 5; 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.; State Highway Administration Hearing room; 300 W. Preston St. Baltimore. Wednesday May 7; 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.; Baltimore County Office Building Hearing room; 111 Chesapeake Ave. Towson Thursday May 8; 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.; Glen Burnie Improvement Association Building; Crain Highway and First Ave. S.E. Glen Burnie. —

Beware bogus IRS agents

The Internal Revenue Service warns against two confidence schemes:

1) Beware of persons falsely claiming to be IRS employees, and who may try to "collect" taxes. All IRS employees must carry clearly recognizable identification, and present these credentials when they contact taxpayers. Don't transact business of any kind if you suspect any kind of fraud.

2) Beware also of organizations claiming to have tax - exempt status who ask for "donations" to their "worthy causes." There are many praiseworthy associations which actually are tax - exempt, and donations to them would be charitable deductions. Once again, be sure of the status of the organization before making donations.

If you have any reason to believe someone is impersonating an IRS employee, or asking for donations to a bogus tax-exempt organization, contact IRS. The phone number is in the pages of the directory, listed under U.S. Government, Internal Revenue Service, and the call is toll-free.

Under no circumstances give money, checks, bank books, or any other item of value

More than 825,000 armed forces veterans with service connected disabilities have been provided vocational training and counseling during the 36 - year history of this Veterans Administration readjustment program. Most of the veterans now being rehabilitated are from the Vietnam era.

We Buy Homes For Cash and Can Stop Foreclosures.
Call In Confidence
Ask For Mike
Only
664-2222

GET WITH A JUICY, GINO'S SIRLOINER.

Gino's
You'll Go For The Food.

OFFERING UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS IN:
Arts and Sciences
Applied
Psychology ● Biology ● Chemistry ● Criminal Justice ● English ● General Science ● History ● Management Science ● Mathematics ● Nursing ● Social Science Teacher Education Programs
Adult Education
Early Childhood Education
Elementary School Education
Industrial Arts Education
Physical Education for the Handicapped-Disabled
Special Education
Certification in Secondary Education in the following Areas:
English ● Social Science ● Chemistry ● History ● Biology ● General Science ● Mathematics ● Industrial Arts
Dual Degree Engineering Program
OFFERING GRADUATE MAJORS IN:
● Adult Education
● Special Education
● Criminal Justice
● Rehabilitation Counseling
CALL OR WRITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
COPPIN STATE COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
2500 W. North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21216
383-5990

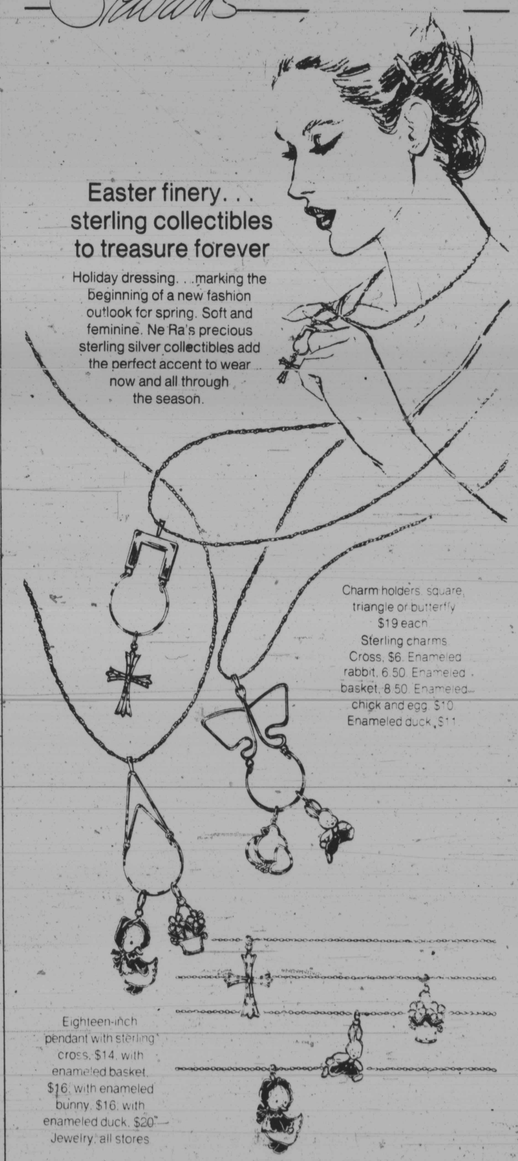
BEGIN YOUR TOMORROW AT COPPIN STATE COLLEGE

I DID!

Stewart's

Easter finery. . . sterling collectibles to treasure forever

Holiday dressing. . . marking the beginning of a new fashion outlook for spring. Soft and feminine. Ne Ra's precious sterling silver collectibles add the perfect accent to wear now and all through the season.



Charm holders: square, triangle or butterfly $19 each
Sterling charms: Cross, $6. Enameled rabbit, 6.50. Enameled basket, 8.50. Enameled chick and egg, $10. Enameled duck, $11.

Eighteen-inch pendant with sterling cross, $14. with enameled basket, $16. with enameled bunny, $16. with enameled duck, $20.
Jewelry: all stores

We will accept your orders 24 hours, 7 days a week. Phone 539-8185. Call toll-free 800-638-6580 in Maryland, outside metropolitan Baltimore. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s. Add $2 for delivery of purchases under $20. Being Canada and foreign countries. Postage and handling charges of $2.25 for deliveries beyond these areas.