Calvert Hall teen's death blow to friends, family

By James M. Abraham and Mark Gall
AFRO Staff Writers

During the course of athletic events, young men learn to know and respect each other. In a sport such as basketball, where teamwork is such an important element towards success, this camaraderie and mutual trust is even more implicit.

One can imagine then, the shock with which the Calvert Hall friends and teammates of Paul Kinney, the brilliant 18 - year - old, who collapsed and eventually died during a practice session at the school gym, must feel.

"He was an outstanding center coming into his own," lamented his coach, Mark Amatucci. "He was working hard for his senior season. He was major college material."

"We were like brothers," said Greg Rogers, a Calvert Hall footballer. "We played together, discoed together, went to the beach together..."

One trainer recalling Kinney's ability to pull the team out of a bind when needed, expressed disbelief that the star center succumbed to death.

"When he had the heart attack," said John Johnson, a senior footballer, "I knew he would pull through, because that's the type of guy he was. He always came through when the odds were against him...He was so young, I guess the Lord works in mysterious ways."

A point guard on the team, Pop Tubman, remembers Kinney as "a nice fellow. He was fun to be with because he kept everybody laughing."

Eva Scott, an athletic director at a local high school, grew up with Kinney, and fondly recalls his childhood.

"He was always an athlete, even when he was small. He was a nice kid from a nice family...so happy-go-lucky, so carefree..."

The 6 foot 5 inch senior collapsed Saturday during a scrimmage game and never regained consciousness. He was taken off a respirator after consultation with his parents, and died 16 minutes later.

Eight members of his team accompanied their former teamate to his grave. They include Jim Krach, Jeff Gonce, Jeff Yost, Paul Edwards, Darryle Edwards, James Tubman, Marc Wilson and Mark Kaufmann.

He was buried in the Blessed Sacrament Church, located in the 4100 block Old York Road yesterday.

Paul Kinney

Sun Life employees strike

About 120 door - to - door salesmen are on strike today against the Sun Life Insurance Company of America in a dispute over wages and fringe benefits contained in a proposed three-year contract.

Pickets walked in front of the company's home office in Baltimore and four regional offices throughout the state Monday and vowed to remain off the job until offered a better package.

Peter V. Gargano, attorney for the Independent Insurance Agents Union of Maryland said the proposed contract takes away certain fringe benefits included in the current agreement and also lowers commissions for most agents.

"They are taking away the limited gasoline allowance we now have, and our guaranteed $130 a week (salary)," he said. "You would have to be an extraordinary salesman to make more out of that contract."

C. Robert Strader, company president, disagreed and said, "The new (commission) system is better than the old one." He declined to discuss the company's fringe benefit package.

Federal mediators contacted both sides Monday, but did not set up a meeting.

The walkout will affect only door - to - door sales, Stader said. "There will still be a way people can pay their premiums."

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
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Utilities in Maryland won't be allowed to cut off service for people who don't pay their bills this winter if the lives or the health of the customers are threatened, the Maryland Public Service Commission said this week.

The policy is similar to one adopted last winter and is in effect from Dec. 1 to March 31.

The order says customers have the right to contest any cutoff and requires utilities to certify any cutoff with the PSC before service is terminated.

The Commission has tried for years to draft a permanent policy on cutoffs, but instead has issued temporary orders each winter. This week's order is another temporary measure.

Some members of the Commission said they think the General Assembly should pass such a permanent policy into law, while others feel the commission itself should make the decree.

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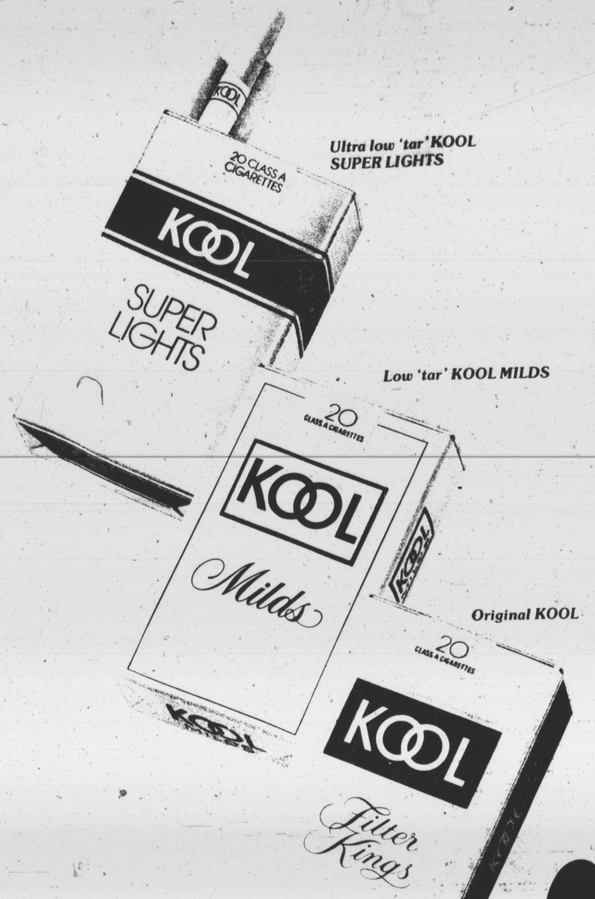

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