Baltimore Afro American

89th Year No. 42

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BALTIMORE, MD. JANUARY 3, 1981

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 89TH YEAR

LATE CITY EDITION

35 CENTS

Charge 'perfect mom' tried to burn her children alive

Fuel aid good idea but

> By Sue Williams AFRO Staff Writer

It just doesn't work. Despite claims by state officials that there is oil for everyone, poor people in the city are running up eligible. What am I supposed to do against almost insurmountable odds as they try to get through the red tape surrounding the application process to receive fuel assistance.

According to Edward A. Dupree, chief of the Urban Services Agency's fuel assistance program, the problems are recognizable, and were even predictable. But because the program is a benefit program this year instead of an "emergency"

program, there is virtually nothing

anybody can do. And because the funds are being instead of locally, as they were last

problem last year. We walked in and told the people we were in trouble and needed oil and we had it with no problems."

"This year it's different. I filled out my application for help Dec. 8 and I was told then that it would be three weeks before I received a notice that let me know if I was

Another woman, Mrs. Dorothy Young, had another type of problem. Mrs. Young, an asthmatic, applied at the Pimlico Multi Purpose Center for emergency assistance. She had been told by her doctor that using her oven was dangerous to her

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Mrs. Santa store open

The Mrs. Santa store will be pen weekdays, from 12 noon to 5 accepted, however.

For more information, call the Mrs. Santa office at 728-8200, ext 256 afternoons.

Hollywood 'White Shadow' team outpoints local media stars



HOLLYWOOD ALL-STARS of White Shadow cast played members of local media to raise money for Welfare Rights Organization. Shown here (1-r) are Ernest Hardin (20), Reggie Herron (10), Kevin

West coast

Stars a 64-67 defeat.

A crowd of more than 3000

showed up Monday night to watch

the team from Hollywood, led by

young Kevin Hooks and Foster and

Ricky Sylvers, meet the best from

Baltimore, which consisted of

several area media stars and

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Hooks (in center with glasses), Wolf Perry (21), Eric Kilpatrick (00) and Lenny Brown (15.). Event raised over \$6,000.

Will convicted murderer-rapist get death sentence? hoopsters

By Robert F. Buchanan Convicted murderer and rapist Elvis Horton was a troubled child who sometimes "stared and acted like he was worried," the man's father told a jury this week which must decide if his son will be sentenced to death.

"He always had headaches, and sometimes you saw him staring and acting like he was worried,' said Pettie Horton, a 58-year-old construction worker and former North Carolina sharecropper who is Horton's father.

"When he was about eight or nine, the school said he should go to a doctor," the elder Horton said. "But back then you didn't have the money to take him to a doctor.' An eight-woman, four-man jury Monday convicted Horton of raping and murdering 12-year-old Walisa Ferguson The jury also convicted him of lelony-murder, or in other words committing murder during another felony.

Testimony showed Horton raped and then bludgeoned Miss Ferguson to death after inviting her inside his home to receive

The jury is currently reconsidering earlier testimony, along Should they rule one way

"There is really only one issue, and that is whether or not Elvis Horton should be killed," desense law yer David Eaton told jurors. This is perhaps the only time when someone else's life is in the

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Atlanta search continues

Dogs uncover items that may lead to new evidence

handler helping search for clues in anonymous tip, planned to return the disappearance and slaying of later to the cemetery site, where 15 Atlanta black children said officials have excavated parts of Tuesday several items found by the landscape in search of clues. his trained German Shepherds Fifteen black children between

stance that might be blood, were. In the past months, police and ogs of trainer Don Laken of overgrown areas of the city in a Philadelphia, a veteran of such search of clues, but with little earches, and others taking part in success.

Laken, who visited another site

ATLANTA (UPI) - A dog Tuesday morning in response to an

could be linked to the baffling the ages of 7 and 15 have disappeared since July, 1979. Eleven The items, including a knife and were later found dead. All of the a rock covered with a red sub- children, except two, were boys. ound in Northwest Atlanta near volunteer searchers have covered Lincoln Cemetery Monday by the miles of sparsely populated and

came to play By James M. Abraham payment for shoveling snow. AFRO Staff Writer They came out of the west with guns blazing, and when they had departed, the Hollywood All-Stars had handed the Baltimore Media

with some new statements. The panel is deciding whether "mitigating circumstances," such as Horton's purported menta disorder, outweigh "aggravating circumstances," in this case rape. Horton will be sentenced to life in prison. If they decide the other way, he will be sentenced to die in the gas chamber.

palm of your hands."

college players, play a benefit game at the Baltimore Civic Center for the Welfare Rights Organization.

Several stars from the hit series, "The White Shadow", were on the Hollywood team, including Nathan Cook and Eric Kilpatrick. Eric Hooks scored first for the

All-Stars, and they were off and running. After Foster Sylvers hit a basket, Curt Anderson, achorman from a local televison station, drew first blood for the local team. But the final score did not reflect the game. The All-Stars led at one stage by almost thirty points, and it took the lesser-known stars of the Baltimore team, including Tony Woodson, a WEAA radio personality, to close the gap near

the end of the game. The Baltimore team was in the unenviable position of being booed by the home fans, who were all for the visitors for the West Coast.

The girls in the audience screamed and cheered for their television favorites as the men mugged and smiled for the audience, and one young lady went as far as to write her phone number on several small scraps of paper to throw to the All-Stars.

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AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

faces WMAR-TV newscaster Curt means business. Anderson in celebrity basketball

BATTLING IT OUT - Larry game held at Convention Center. Herron of Villanova University From the looks on Curt's face, he

,000 expected at 'Save MSU' rally

More than 1,000 persons are expeeted to participate in a rally planned for the trouble-plagued Morgan State University which has received much attention due to the financial and management problems that have surfaced over the last year.

The main thrust of the rally which is scheduled Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Masonic Temple 1307 N. Eutaw Place is to inform the

community of exactly what the problems are at the school. Organizers of the rally say that it will not be a forum to discuss the resignation or firing of President

Andrew Billingsley which has been the main cry of many other community groups that have formed to deal with the issues at the university.

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By James M. Abraham

AFRO Staff Writer Residents of the 2100 block of east Federal St. are still in shock following the news that a 28-year old mother set fire to her home with her three children still inside Saturday night.

The woman, Vanessa Ayers, whom neighbors deided as perfect mother," has been arrested and charged with arson by Baltimore city police.

"I really didn't except anything the this to happen," said Rebecca Foster, a neighobr who said she had known Ms. Ayes for a year. "She was a nice person, she never bothered anybody." Janie Mae Davis, another

neighbor, said that Ms. Ayers often talked about her children, and that "she really kept them looking neat and everything.

But Saturday, Dec. 27, police say that Ms. Ayes came home in an intoxicated state. She then herded her children upstairs, locked them in a bedroom, and then proceeded to set a living room sofa on fire.

The house burned down com pletely, and the family was saved by jumping out of several second floor windows.

Injured in the blaze were 9-yearold Marie, who suffered thirdsmoke inhalation; Kevin, 11, who sustained a fracture of his left ankle and smoke inhalation; and 13-year-old Darnell, who received first-degree burns of his face and

Darnell and Kevin are still undergoing treatment for their injuries while Marie has been

Although several reports of the incident said that Ms. Ayers had previously argued with her boyfriend, none of her neighbors or the police could find any motive.

for her action. "She didn't look like she was " depressed or anything, 'said Janie Mae Davis, another neighbor, "I saw her on Christmas Eve and she

looked happy." Police say that charges of attempted murder may be filed against Ms. Ayers.

prison deadline

A federal judge Tuesday extended the state's deadline for ending overcrowding at the Maryland Correctional Institute in Hagerstown from Thursday to

April 15. In his order, U.S. District Judge Norman Ramsey gave the state more time to end double-celling the practice of placing two inmates in a cell designed for one at the Hagerstown facility. MCT held 1,057 inmates Tuesday, 314

more than are permitted. "We greet the opinion with mixed emotions," said Assistant Attorney General Stephen Caplis; We're gratified he felt our request (for more time) is legitimate. But we don't know we can comply with the April 15th

The state hopes to have two buildings housing 912 inmates completed by April or May. But Caplis said completion might not be the key.

"We expect to have one building completed April 1. But we have a problem with having 15 days to move 300 inmates from one institution to another," he said. Captis said the state would need

30 to 60 days to get the new prisons operating fully. The overcrowding at MC1 was

the result of a successful inmate suit that forced the state to end double-celling at the House of

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