CLOSE YOUR EYES AND READ THIS AD.

You've just experienced a part of Tiesa's life. Tiesa's blind. She can't read newspapers, watch television or go to the movies. But with the training and education she receives from The Maryland School for the Blind, she leads a meaningful and productive life. The Maryland School for the Blind is just one of the educational institutions to receive financial assistance from the State Department of Education. In 1984, the General Fund will contribute over 811 million dollars in aid to the State Department of Education. The State General Fund continues to provide over 85% of the operating costs of The Maryland School for the Blind.

In 1984, the public education agencies will spend more than 35 cents of every General Fund dollar and almost 30 cents of every dollar appropriated. Sixty nine percent of these funds is budgeted to the State Department of Education to be used primarily for the support of elementary and secondary education.

Public higher education in Maryland is provided directly by the State at the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, the six state universities and colleges, and St. Mary's College of Maryland.

We hope this opened your eyes to a part of what the General Fund contributes to public education in the State of Maryland.

THIS MESSAGE WAS PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND STATE LOTTERY.*

MARTIN H. PORCER, DIRECTOR

*The Maryland State Lottery contributed over 198 million dollars to the Maryland General Fund in Fiscal Year 1983.

FIRE VICTIMS—Tanika Beasley, 6 and her sister, Angela, 4 died in a rowhouse fire Tuesday night, after playing with matches. Last rites for the sisters will be held Monday.

Services Monday for fire victims

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Two young sisters were were killed and their mother was injured in a one alarm house fire Wednesday , caused by the sisters playing with matches, according to Capt. Patrick Flynn.

Last rites for Tanika Johnson, 6 and her sister, Angela, 4, will be held Dec. 5 at William C. March Funeral Home.

Capt. Flynn , a spokesman for the fire department said Ms. Patricia Beasley, 28 and her companion, William Harrison, 33 jumped from an upstairs window after trying to save the children. Ms. Beasley suffered a broken left foot and is listed in satisfactory condition in Johns Hopkins Hospital.

"The children had a history of playing with matches...and evidently that's how it started," said Capt. Flynn.

According to the fire department, five people died this year from the results of children playing with matches and there have been a total of 41 deaths caused by fire this year.

Capt. Flynn told the AFRO

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- CONSTANT CARE—An inside look at the inner-workings of this health-care facility. Page 12.
- FRIDAY PLUS—The status of compact discs, and how soon they will be the standard for record listening.
- VENEREAL DISEASE—A frank discussion of the increase in Baltimore. Page 10.

City gets money for fuel assistance

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

Because the federal government gave the state some money and the state shared the loot with the city, low-income Baltimore residents who have trouble paying their home heating bills will be able to get government assistance again this winter.

The Board of Estimates gave the ok for Urban Services Agency

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SATURDAY LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 92ND YEAR

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(AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene)

A COOL AFTERNOON MEAL—A crowd of over three dozen men and women await the opening of the St. Fransican Center, located in the 2200 block of Maryland Avenue. The daily food line is just one of many such distribution efforts currently underway around town.

Final food giveaway

The final leg of the city's surplus food giveaway program has been quietly implemented and operating with little fanfare for well over a week.

Unlike the last distribution effort which began in late September, the current program has received only a limited amount of exposure.

The guidelines have not changed. Recipients must display either a medical assistance card, SSI grant letter, or a valid unemployment card.

Appointments, though not required at all of the Urban Services centers, are encouraged to help reduce the amount of time people are forced to spend waiting in line for their packages.

This is the last such distribution for the year and, the fifth one offered to the poor, by the Department of Agriculture.

Few alterations have been made, with the exception of the list of food items being made available. Whereas the previous cartons included seven different food types, the current one has only five.

At some location points, even less is being given away, with the public having to settle for just cheese and butter.

Welfare board game creator sues NAACP and others

By Arthur Johnson
AFRO Staff Writer

The maker of a board game titled "Public Assistance: Why Bother Working For A Living" has filed a $13 million suit against several organizations, including the NAACP, charging that they conspired to blacklist his game.

Game-maker Robert B. Johnson, Jr. of Severna Park, Md. says the organizations' protests prompted the removal of the Monopoly-like parody of the welfare system from stores such as Hutzler's in Baltimore and Hecht's in Maryland and D.C.

The object of Johnson's board game is to avoid four squares marked "Get a job" and "Working Man's Rut". Players move along the "Able-bodied welfare recipient promenade" and try to accumulate as many welfare benefits and illegitimate children as they can. On four Saturday nights, players can commit crimes.

The game was heavily criticized by social welfare groups when it was released in November 1980. It was labeled racist and sexist because it viewed the welfare system cynically, penalized working players, and rewarded those on assistance.

Johnson, who says government liberals invented the game and that "I just put it in the box", claims that pressure from the organizations "coordinated the blacklisting of the game throughout the American retail industry."

Johnson is seeking damages on the grounds that his first and 14th Amendment rights were violated by the "conspiracy" between the groups and government officials.

Emmett Burns, Regional Director of the NAACP and a defendant in the suit says the organization's lawyers have been informed.

"I'm going to pick up the complaint today (Thursday) from U.S. District Court. I haven't had a chance to read the complaint. It all sounds rather ridiculous to me."

Sharon Gardner, Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization,

Continued on page 2

HIGH RISE RESIDENTS SAY:

Rent strike is on!

Welfare Rights Organization says 228 families have signed up

By Tyrone Vines
AFRO Staff Writer

The time for rhetoric has come to an end concerning the proposed rent strike by the tenants of 18 public housing high-rise apartment buildings in the city.

Beginning of December 1, the rent strike officially began. Thus far, there have been approximately 160 tenants who have, in cooperation with the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization Inc., refused to pay their December rent.

Still not satisfied with the conditions of the high-rises, the tenants' major complaints are: overcrowding, safety, maintenance, security, broken elevators, and its general unsuitability for families with children.

According to BWRO Inc., Bobby Cheeks, there are 228 families who have signed up for the rent strike. "Some people will let the BWRO hold their rent money, while others who feel more secure, will hold their own rent until the city responds to their demands," Cheeks said.

"Not all of the 228 tenants who have signed up for the rent strike will start this month, but they will be with holding their rent starting January, 1984 if the city has not by that time started to answer the complaints," Cheeks added.

"We have met with the city council concerning this problem and everyone involved was satisfied that a problem exists. We don't think anyone living in the high-rises should pay rent until this situation is cleared up," Cheeks said. "The time for useless rhetoric has ended. Now is the time for action from the city and the council members."

The central idea behind the rent strike is to force the city to take action on the complaints of the high-rise tenants. "The city has received our complaints and the decision to go to rent court will be on the city," Cheeks said.

Delegate Larry Young, Democrat 39th Legislative District, said, "I have written to commissioner Brody requesting a meeting concerning this situation."

"If the problem is to be resolved it should be done between the council and the mayor. It is a serious statement and those who are involved should get together and try to resolve the problem," Del. Young said.

Under the law the city now has to decide to either take action on the complaints and thus have the tenants start to pay their rent, or the city can take the tenants to rent court for legal action to recover the rent due.

In the event that the city goes to court an escrow account may be established for the tenants to pay their rent until a settlement is reached.

The tenants have a 7-day grace period to pay their rent to the city before any action can be taken to recover any money due the Housing Department.

There has been no official response from Commissioner Brody's office at AFRO press time.

Keith Mathews new district court judge

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

"I am delighted to get the appointment. I hope to develop a reputation as being a fair judge."

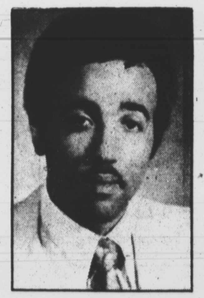
Those were the words of Keith Eugene Mathews, an assistant state's attorney. Mathews, 39, was recently named a district court judge by Governor Hughes.

There are 22 district court judges and Mathews will become the fifth black district court judge. His swearing in ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m. Dec. 12 at the district court building, 211 E. Madison St.

Mathews has been an assistant state's attorney since 1978. He was assigned to the Circuit Court trial team and prosecuted felony cases before both court and jury.

The jurisdiction of district court ranges from landlord tenant court, traffic court, misdemeanor, criminal and civil cases with jurisdiction up to $10,000.

Mathews is a graduate of the University of Baltimore and Morgan State University. He was formerly a member of Foster, Mathews and Hill law firm.



Keith E. Mathews

Woodlawn Elementary school to become multi-purpose center

By Tyrone Vines
AFRO Staff Writer

County Executive Donald P. Hutchinson has unveiled plans for the renovation of the former Woodlawn Elementary School—plans which will transform the surplus county school from an educational facility into a multi-purpose community center.

"Woodlawn Elementary is just the latest example of how we are utilizing surplus county schools to bring expanded services to our communities in a most economical way," says County Executive Hutchinson. "The services being offered here will satisfy a variety of community needs and will increase pedestrian traffic to nearby businesses.'

Woodlawn Elementary School, located at 2120 Gwynn Oak Avenue in Woodlawn, was originally built in 1924, with additions constructed in 1954 and

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SEXUAL FANTASIES III

She walks the Avenue to support her family

By R. B. Jones

The night is cold and like the wind that streaks up Pennsylvania Ave, the streetwalkers are constantly moving. The Avenue is remarkably clear. "The cops been hassling people a lot lately," said Niecey, a 25-year-old part time streetwalker on Pennsylvania Ave.

The heaviest traffic occurs at Pressman St. but girls roam up and down the Avenue between Pressman and North Avenue.

Niecey, like all the other prostitutes observed on the Avenue wears no makeup. These women ply their trade in the darkness of cars parked in secluded spots or in trick pads where speed and efficiency are the priority not illusions of beauty.

There are no flashy clothes either. The women that stand on these corners reek of poverty and desperation. The pimps also appear impoverished. There are no Super Fly cars or flashy clothes. Some of the procurers watch their prostitutes work from very modest cars or vans. They are warm and dry. They are also at no risk if the police come along since it is not a crime to sit in one's own car.

"There are two kinds of girls working these corners baby. The full timers are mostly junkies. A lot of them have pimps. The other girls come out here a couple of times a month. If you work a couple of weekends all night on Friday and Saturday you can make some good money," said Niecey.

Niecey continued, "I don't want to stand on this corner. I do it for my kids. I'm on welfare and that ain't enough to take care of us. They don't make the fathers support the kids. Two of my kids father has a good job but he don't send me nothing. At Christmas he might feel guilty and give them something. You can't live off Christmas the whole damn year."

Niecey became animated. "My food stamps and my check last about two weeks. Those last two weeks of the month are rough. My kids eat a lot but what kids don't. The three of them can get down on some food. I don't eat that much, that's why I have such a sexy

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