—Fire victims

Continued from page 1

there was a smoke detector in the house and it "did operate." However, Ms. Beasley was not able save her children.

According to the fire department, the blaze started around 8 p.m. in the living room of the two story row house in the 900 block of Duncan St.

Tanika and Angela were found in separate second floor bedrooms. Their cause of death was smoke inhalation.

Capt. Flynn continues to warn parents to keep matches and cigarette lighters out of the reach of young children. He said, "Any parents who have children who are playing with matches or have a history of setting fires should contact the Juvenile Fire Setters program and talk with Lt. David Echols, 396-0753.

Last fiscal year, about 100 Baltimore fires were caused by children playing with matches, Capt. Flynn said.

Tanika was a first grade student at school No. 101. Fire officials said the fire started in the ground floor living room and near a television table.

A firefighter said, "The whole house was an inferno" when he arrived at the house.

Capt. Flynn said Ms. Beasley and here friend were alerted by the smoke detector and managed to escape. Otherwise we might have had four deaths."

Continued from page 1

—Sexual Fantasies—Part III

shape. Aint that right baby?"

The street walker's profit, if she does not have a pimp, comes from the volume of trade. "I usually try to get at least $30.00 from a trick. If business is real slow and it's late I might accept $15.00. I can't work all night cause I have to get back to my kids. The lady next door keeps an eye on them but she has to go to sleep . Mostly I do my business in the guy's car. If he seems okay I'll go to his house with him. I try to be real careful," said Niecey.

On a good night I might turn four or five tricks. Some nights I might do one or nothing. Those junkies jump on anything, that's why they get busted so much. If a dude looks like a cop or a nut I let him pass. If something happens to me who's gonna take care of my kids?" added Niecey.

The danger is always there when one jumps in strangers' car. "A bunch of the girls got killed a couple of years ago. I try not to think about getting hurt. Some guys let you do and then pull a knife or gun and take the money if I was out there all the funny. Once in a while some fool will mug a girl if she's on a corner by herself, " said Niecey.

"I guess I could make a lot of money if I was out there all th time. I'm real sexy, real yellow which most of you guys go for and I can really do my job. I do it so well that my boyfriend is still around even though he knows that I trick sometimes.

He don't like it but he can't leave me. I got his number. I don't think we're gonna get married now. You men are so hung up. He ain't got no job right now so I have to make ends meet the best way I can," said Niecey.

There is a sadness in the business and a mounting sense of disgust. "I don't enjoy this job too much. I keep a half pint of rum with me to get the bad taste out of my mouth. I can't believe what some of these tricks want to do. Half of them want to complain bout their old ladies. A lot of them want you to tell them that they are so big and bad."

Some of them even want to kiss you. If they want love they should stay home with their wife or girlfriend. I ain't in love with them. I'm doing this for the money. You fellas live in a dream world don't you," said Niecey.

Niecey added, "I feel sorry for the junkies. They need money for dope but they give all their money to some pimp. At least some of them can go to trick pads." A trick pad is a room rented to the prostitute often by a senior citizen on a fixed income.

In the trick pad the girl is warm and relatively safe and the trick has the comfort of a bed. The room costs the customer around three dollars.

"I don't want to have to do this too much longer. If I could get a job, a good job I'd be alright. It does something to you when all those men are in and out of your body. It makes you kinda hard. I look at my son and wonder if he'll be a trick one day. He probably will.

"You men want just two things from a woman, sex and something to build up your ego. Love is a one way street with you all, from the woman to you. I'll do it as long as I have to. My kids didn't ask to come into this world."

It was time for Niecey to go back to work. Traffic on the Avenue was picking up. Predators in cars were looking for fresh meat. When questioned about the risk of VD, Niecey shrugged. "More of the so called respectable chicks I know have VD more than the ones that trick. We know what to look for and we make sure the dude's equipment is clean 'fore we do anything." She displayed a container of baby wipes.

"If you got any jobs down at the AFRO let me know. I could really write some stories." Niecey walked away. Her eyes probed passing cars for interest on the part of the driver. At home her children slept unattended while she catered to male fantasies in darkened cars.

—Woodlawn school

Continued from page 1

1972. It was designated a surplus school by the Baltimore County Board of Education in 1981, and was closed to students at the end of the 1981-82 academic year.

Two major Baltimore County agencies—the Police Department and the Department of Recreation and Parks—will occupy most of the space in the building once minor repairs and renovations are completed.

The Police Department's Area Major, COPE, and Western Traffic units will take up just over 5,000 square feet of space in the front of the Woodlawn building. Recreation and Parks, which has been continuously offering recreational programming in the school's adjacent Community and Activity building, will retain their use of those sites and will also have access to several classrooms inside the school for a total of 9,500 square feet of usable space.

Kathy Terry, president of the Gwynn Oak Improvement Association, said, "I think that the new renovation plans for Woodlawn Elementary School is making the best use of the building. However, I think that there won't be 100 percent agreement among the residents in the community, but over all it will be accepted."

Two other county agencies, the Department of Aging and the Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Department, have entered into a Shared Space Agreement with the Department of Recreation and Parks which will enable them to use the facility as well. The Department of Aging will operate its Woodlawn Senior Center at the site, and the Volunteer Fire Department will hold training classes there on a regular basis.

According to the Office of Research and Public Affairs for Baltimore County, the Woodlawn School is also slated to eventually house Police Precinct Station No. 3. Major renovations to enable the building to house the station have been budgeted for, and will begin in 1987. The precinct station is expected to be operational by 1989, and will occupy nearly 13,000 of the building's 27,000 square feet.

—Fuel assistance

Continued from page 1

officials to sign an agreement with the Maryland Department of Human Resources bringing $12.1 million into the city's coffers to operate the Maryland Energy Assistance Program here.

The program, which last year served 38,000 households during an unusually long winter, provides one-time grants of up to $300 to households facing fuel emergencies.

The grants, which are made payable directly to the fuel vendor, are based on household income, fuel type and the number of individuals in the household. For instance, a family of four with a combined monthly income of up to $1,238 would be eligible for aid.

The funding apparently came in the nick of time. Ed Dupree, chief of the agency's energy programs, said his office already has been swamped with applications for help with fuel bills which pour in at a rate of 700 per day.

"We've already made up checks but couldn't send them out until the contract was signed today. You can tell the people the checks are in the mail," Dupree said Wednesday.

Dupree said the $12.1 million grant, which roughly matches last year's funding, should be adequate to meet the one-time needs of all who qualify.

Dupree also said $1.5 million of the grant is being held aside to help individuals facing a second crisis, such as a fuel oil contract cancelled for late payment. But he added the second time fund is small, and applications are examined particularly closely.

"We screen them very carefully to determine if there really is an emergency," Dupree said. "None of those grants are going to take care of anyone's total energy costs."

Beware of thieves at Christmas time

It may be better to give than to receive, but don't give thieves a chance to spoil your holiday season.

The holiday period from Thanksgiving to New Year's is a busy time for would-be thieves.

"This time of year, people are away from home more frequently, often leaving their homes filled with valuable holiday gifts. That makes them prime targets for theft," says James P. Weaver, a corporate security manager for Reynolds Industries.

Away from home, thieves know that shoppers are carrying larger sums of money and their cars are filled with purchases, warns Weaver, who helps manage the corporate security program for RJR's global businesses.

By following a few simple rules and good common sense, spirit-dampening thefts can be discouraged.

"One basic rule is make it difficult for a burglar or thief to succeed," Weaver says. "Burglars and thetves look for easy targets, avoiding anything that will take a lot of time or draw attention."

Protecting your home and property during the holiday season is not complicated, Weaver says. Just being more aware of your surroundings and the possibility of crime can help you avoid becoming a victim.

He suggests some additional ways people can discourage personal crime during the holiday season.

- When out at night, leave lights on inside and outside the home. For longer absences, use timers to turn lights on and off. Be sure all doors — including garage doors — and windows are locked securely.

- Tell your neighbors if you are planning to go visiting during the holidays. Ask them to keep an eye out for any unusual activity around your house and to pick up mail and newspapers when delivered.

- Be careful with strangers who approach you in shopping malls or stores, soliciting contributions or selling goods. Confirm their authenticity before giving money or buying items. Also, it's unwise to open your door to strangers or let them into your home until you have verified who they are and what they want.

Lock packages in the trunk or other covered area in the car. Before getting into your car, take a second to check the front and rear seats and floor, being alert to any person or objects that may be awaiting your return.

—Sues NAACP

Continued from page 1

Inc., organizer and welfare recipient feels the game is "insulting to the human race."

"He (Johnson) has a right to make money, but as a recipient myself, I don't think anybody should use us to fatten his pockets because of the condition welfare mothers have gotten into."

"Because a person is in that condition doesn't mean that's the way they want to be," says Ms. Gardener.

Others named in the suit include The National Organization for Women, Luther Starnes, chief of public relations for Maryland's Department of Human Resources; Kalman Hettleman, former Secretary of Human Resources; Sylvia Gonzales of NOW; The American Public Welfare Association; The National Association of Social Workers; and Carl Snowden of the Annapolis, Md. Community Action Agency.

Johnson claims he has sold over 100,000 of the games through small game store chains and mail order requests.

Arthur White elected grand high priest

ARTHUR WHITE

Arthur White is the newly elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Adolphus P. Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons, Prince Hall Affiliation of the District of Columbia.

In his new capacity, the Grand High Priest has announced that Washington will be the site of the General Conference of Grand Chapters, Royal Arch Masons, from throughout the country during June 29 thru July 4, 1984.

White resides in the District of Columbia and has served as president of his own catering firm for more than 20 years. He is a 33rd-degree Mason and has served in top positions in the Blue Lodge; Royal and Select Masters; Knights Templar; Shriners, Mecca Temple No. 10, A.E.A.O.N.M.S. and as worthy patron in the Order of the Eastern Star.

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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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Ninth graders flunk state writing exam

State education officials say more than half of Maryland's 50,000 ninth-graders flunked trial runs of a statewide functional writing test.

David W. Hornbeck, state superintendent of schools, this week released the results of the two-part writing test given to the students last spring. Only 49 percent of those tested passed with the necessary 5.5 of a possible 8 points.

"I think it is fair to say that writing skills over the years have deteriorated—not just among students but in the population at large," Hornbeck said.

The test, which asked students to write one narrative and one explanatory passage, will be given to ninth-graders this spring, with those who fail being required to keep taking it in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades until they pass.

Each exam is read by two scorers who look for correct spelling and grammar as well as for passages that manage to convey ideas specinctly.

"In schools across the state, we did a re-emphasis on writing ... as it's given this emphasis, we will see writing skills improve and students across the state become better at communicating," Hornbeck said.

In last spring's trial run of a similar mathematics test, about 60 percent of the state's ninth-graders failed to post scores showing that they were functional in math.

Task force says hike education in Md.

ANNAPOLIS, MD (UPI) — A gubernatorial task force recommended last that the state increase its education aid to Baltimore and the 23 counties by hundreds of millions of dollars over the next five years.

Gov. Harry Hughes immediately embraced the recommendation, said the "odds are" he will propose at least part of it to the General Assembly, but said the proposal is so expensive it would not be possible without a tax increase.

The task force, headed by former U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, specifically proposed an increase that would raise the amount of state funds used for education by $53 million to $68 million next year alone.

"It's a substantial program, but fiscally responsible," Civiletti said after the task force approved the final set of recommendations, 16-2. "It is a major step forward for equalized school aid for education."

If the most ambitious part of the recommendations were adopted, state payments for education in the fifth year of the phased-in program would be about $244 million higher than they would have been otherwise, and more than $300 million higher than they are now.

The state expects to spend about $430 million on public education this year, a figure that will automatically increase to almost $500 million a year five years from now even if nothing new is done.

Even with the task force's minimum recommendation, state aid for education in fiscal year 1989 would be about $180 million higher than the state now expects to spend that year.

"To do either one of these options commits you to a tax increase," Hughes said. "The odds are, I will take one or the other ."

As part of the recommendation, the task force voted 10-8 to ask Hughes to include in his education budget for the coming fiscal year a one-time payment to Baltimore of approximately $11 million.

That figure is the amount the city would have otherwise received under one of three special education funding formulas for poorer jurisdictions that the task force wants Hughes to scrap and incorporate into the state's main education distribution formula.

For Baltimore, the $11 million essentially would constitute a one-time double payment of part of the city's state aid for education, but Hughes said he agreed with the proposal.

"It's probably a good idea. Obviously, Baltimore City has the greatest need and the greatest costs," he said.

The task force reached a consensus only after rejecting an effort by state School Superintendent David Hornbeck to push through the most expensive of four proposals under consideration: a plan that could have had a cumulative additional cost to the state of $1,295 billion in just five years.

"The issue is, do we believe in excellence (in education) for some of the 700,000 children in the state or for all of the 700,000 children in the state," Hornbeck said. "If there is going to be a major step forward, now is the time."

But former Acting Gov. Blair Lee III, another task force member and one of the architects of the state's current education funding formula, labeled Hornbeck's proposal "a phony proposition."

"It would fall off its own financially irresponsible weight," Lee predicted, later asking rhetorically, "Does anybody in this room honestly believe the General Assembly would actually approve this?

Ultimately, however, eight of 18 task force members did vote for Hornbeck's proposal, with Civiletti averting a tie by voting against it.

State workers' pay behind nat'l norms

According to data developed by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, state employee salaries in Maryland have fallen further behind the national norm.

Each year the Census Bureau publishes a "snapshot" of monthly earnings of Public employees in various jurisdictions, These reports show that as of October 1982, the latest year for which data are available, the average monthly salary of full time state employees , except education, was $1456. The average for all states was $1552 , some $96. a month higher than Maryland's earnings, In a ranking of 50 states this makes Maryland number 26.

The data for non instructional state employee salaries working in educational facilities is quite an eye opener. The average monthly earning of all such full time employees is $1001. The average for all states is $1414. In this category Maryland ranks 47th out of 50 states. Only New Hampshire, Mississippi and Nebraska have lower salaries.

"The above statistics prove once again that salaries for Maryland's state employees are shamefully low." stated Joseph Adler, executive director of the Maryland Classified Employees Association. "These salaries have fallen further and further behind other states and jurisdictions. It is scandalous that we rank 47th in terms of salaries of non instructional staff at state educational institutions.

It is equally outrageous that the state has permitted the salary levels of all employees to fall below the national median level. In this season of Thanksgiving, state employee salaries are nothing to be thankful about." Mr. Adler added.

Further exacerbating the plight of state employee salaries are two additional factors. (1) State per capital income has increased from being the 9th highest in the nation to being the 6th highest at $12,194. and (2) the monthly salaries of county employees in Maryland stands at $1689. This ranks Maryland 5th and is $213. a month higher than the average state employees' salary.

Betty Lea Duncan, MCEA's president stated that, "It is imperative that the governor and the General Assembly halt this erosion of the pay levels of state employees by granting them a substantial salary increase this year.

"Otherwise we will be worse off next year. It is equally important to preserve our hard fought benefits in the areas of retirement-pensions and health care." Without these benefits the plight of state employees would be even worse than the data seem to indicate.

MCEA represents over 25,000 state employees and is Maryland's largest independent public employee union.

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Highway death toll exceeds last year's

This year, the Thanksgiving holiday death toll climbed to twice the number of fatalities for the same time last year. A total of 16 people lost their lives in traffic-related accidents, over the holiday weekend.

Lorrayne K. McCormack, 69, of Northeast Baltimore, was killed as she tried to cross Harford Road in Parkville at 7:40 p.m. Sunday. Baltimore County police blamed the mishap on pedestrian error and no charges were filed against the driver.

Joe N. Jenkins, of Landover, was killed early Sunday when he stepped in front of a car driven by Carl Mack, of Landover, on George Palmer Road in Seat Pleasant.

Earl Warren Nuckols Jr., 25, of Rockville, was killed when the car he was driving went out of control shortly before 4:30 a.m. Sunday on state Route 28.

Thomas W. Henson, 33, of Aberdeen, died when his car slammed head-on into a car driven by Fred H. Lewis, of Jamaica, N.Y., on Interstate 95 about 4 a.m. Saturday. Henson was driving north in the southbound lanes when the mishap occurred. Lewis was hospitalized with head injuries.

Lawrence Schiegel, 29, and his passenger, David Woody, 35, both of Lansdowne, were killed at 2 a.m. Saturday when their car ran off the road, flipped and crashed into trees in Lansdowne.

Odetta R. Robbins, 60, died Saturday when she was struck by another car at Rossville Boulevard and U.S. Route 40 in White Marsh as she attempted to avoid a fire engine responding to a call.

Charles P. Hand Jr., 35, was killed about 3 p.m. Saturday when his motorcycle went out of control and was struck by a car in Finksburg.

Kenneth P. Lucas, 17, of Baltimore, was killed early Saturday on Hazelwood Avenue when his car went out of control and hit several objects.

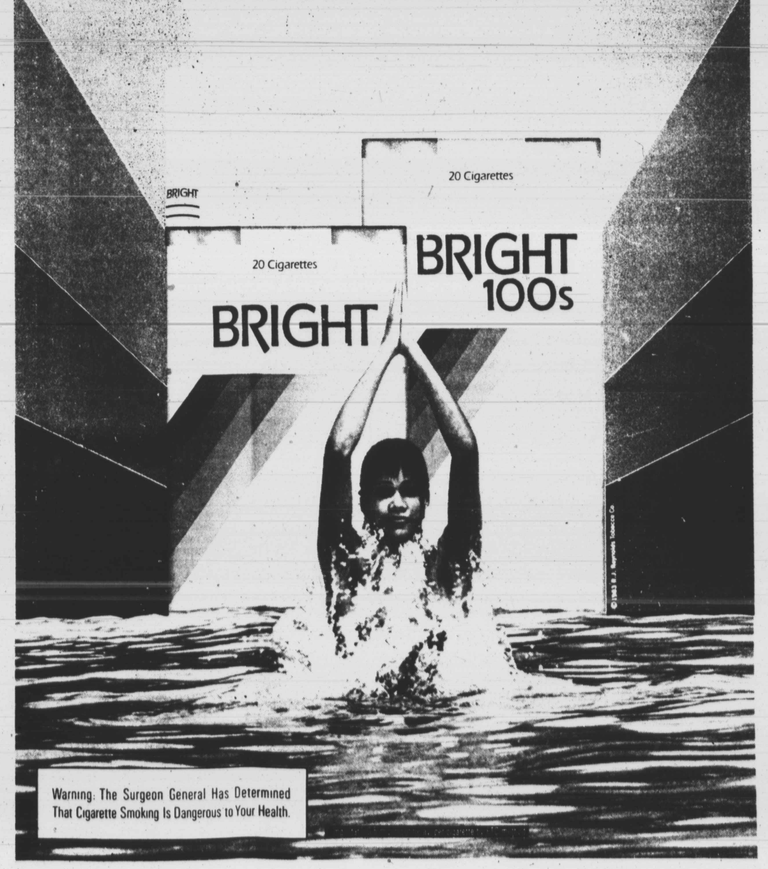
John L. Herman, 65, of Baltimore, was killed early Friday afternoon when the car in which he was riding went out of control on Perry Hall Boulevard.

Joseph Parker Jr., 26, of Greenbelt, was the victim of an apparent deliberate hit-and-run in Landover at 8:15 Friday.

Christine Ann Werner, 22, of Thorton, PA., was killed in a noon crash Friday on I-695 in Baltimore County.

William Lang, 22, of Laurel, and Paul Spitzer, 47, of Clearwa ter, Fla., were killed in a head-on crash Friday on U.S.M. Route 1 near Laurel. The accident occurred about 9 a.m. when Lang's car skidded out of control, crossed the center line and struck Spitzer's car head-on.

Eugene F. Stump, 72, of Prince George's County, died in another head-on crash on state Route 214 near Davidsonville.

Thomas Bates, 43, of Ardmore, and a passenger, Michael McLawrin , 23, of Washington, D.C., were killed in a Thanksgiving Day crash on rain-soaked U.S. Route 50 near Cheverly. They were killed when a car driven by Donald Jackson, 27, of Cheverly, crossed the median and then struck their car.

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