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.*

MARVIN H. PERCIE, DIRECTOR

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

Merry Christmas

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SATURDAY LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 92ND YEAR

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

KIDNAPPED GIRL'S RELATIVES SAY:

'Best Christmas ever!'

By Arthur Johnson
AFRO Staff Writer

Four-year-old Aarika Newman's teenage kidnapper was still on the loose at AFRO press time as city police struggled to obtain a composite sketch of the accused female kidnapper.

Police describe the teenager as a black female between the ages of 16-18 years old, short, with a medium complexion and medium length hair.

"A four-year-old girl can't give you much (of a description) said city police Public Information Officer Dennis Hill Wednesday.

Hill said the FBI had not been involved in the case because the victim has been recovered.

"The FBI is called only when the suspect has crossed the state line or the city line."

The teenaged girl took Aarika from the Wabash Avenue K-Mart store early Tuesday afternoon and threatened and smacked her in order to keep her quiet, police said.

Hill said that surveillance camera tapes from the K-Mart store may be used to identify Aarika's abductor. MTA officials said that their subway security tapes are kept for a limited amount of time and may also be used in the effort to locate the kidnapper.

Meanwhile, little Aarika has been unable to give the name of the girl who forced her to ride the subway and the bus during the five-hour ordeal.

Aarika's mother, Mrs. Margaret Curtis, said her daughter told her that the teenager took her to a school to pick up her books. The girl then took her to the corner of Cold Spring Lane and Park Heights Avenue where she left her in front of a Rite-Aid store around 5:15 p.m., police said.

"Aarika is very familiar with that store because we go there a lot," said Mrs. Curtis.

"When she left her (Aarika) on the corner she said (Aarika) would have to go home by herself," says Mrs. Curtis.

"A boy found her and took her into Rite-Aid," says Mrs. Louise Newman, Aarika's grandmother. A security guard then phoned police.

Mrs. Curtis had just returned home from the police station when she received the call.

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AFRO photo by Karl Ferron

REUNITED — Aarika and her loving grandfather, George Newman, try to put the kidnapping ordeal behind them.

'Oh mitten tree, oh mitten tree'

AFRO photo by Karl Ferron

MITTENS FOR [illegible] — [illegible] Social Security Administration [illegible] Baltimore [illegible] City and County school children. Left to right: Doris Steele, Veronica Lee, [illegible] Marcus Wynn and Maurice Wynn. [illegible] Office of Disability Determination [illegible] which is [illegible] true which is an annual event at Social Security headquarters in Woodlawn.

Rent strike fizzles— new thrust to begin

By Tyrone Vines
AFRO Staff Writer

Twenty days ago approximately 160 tenants in cooperation with the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization, Inc., notified the Department of Housing and Community Development of their December 1 rent strike.

The George B. Murphy Homes, Lexington Terrace, Lafayette Homes and the Flag House highrise complexes have been criticized by the residents on several occasions. Sub-standard and inadequate living conditions have often been associated with these particular public housing units.

Major complaints ranged from overcrowding, safety, maintenance, security, to broken elevators. Another frequently voiced complaint was that

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GREYHOUND ROLLS AGAIN:

The strike is over

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

The Christmas spirit was not high among some 40 local Greyhound employees returning to work Wednesday morning, ending a seven-week old strike against Greyhound Lines.

For many, it will be well after the Christmas holidays before they will receive their first check since returning to work.

Some employees report the refusal of several charities to help them due to their present working status, not realizing that the strike had crippled most of them financially.

But even in the light of intensive efforts oriented toward soliciting aid to returning workers, still all is not well. Many of the workers are expressing dissatisfaction over the union's decision to return to work.

"I must admit. It feels good to

(Continued on page 2)

WELCOME BACK says the sign at the Greyhound station on Howard St., and these college students take advantage of reinstitution service to make it home to New York for the holidays.

B-r-r-r weather slides into town

A wave of frigid arctic air which swept into the Baltimore area earlier this week plunged temperatures into the teens and brought scores of telephone calls to public and private agencies for help in battling the cold.

The Urban Services Agency was besieged with requests for fuel assistance from residents without heat, as the cold settled in, turning unheated homes into refrigerators.

"We've gotten calls all day today and all day yesterday," Twilah Scarborough, an agency information officer said Wednesday. "We've been swamped."

Meanwhile, shelters for the homeless were also unusually busy. The Helping Up Mission on E. Baltimore Street, which normally houses 70 - 80 indigents nightly, reported 108 people slept there Wednesday evening.

The area's energy providers, oil companies and the gas and electric utility, report customer demand has risen sharply.

A spokesperson for the G&M Oil Company said it has increased the number of trucks making

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LOTTERY

TATTLE TALES

Kwanzaa begins Dec. 26

Kwanzaa, a holiday (Holy Day) based upon the Afriken tradition of celebrating the harvesting of the first fruits, will be celebrated for seven days in this country (Dec. 26-Jan. 1) with each day being symbolic of one of the "Seven Principles of Blackness."

Kwanzaa, recreated and introduced for use by black people in the United States by Dr. M. Ron Karenga in 1966, is the time of year black people come together as a community to celebrate the fruits of their labors during the preceding year by reflecting, reassessing, recommitting, rewarding and rejoicing in an atmosphere of peace, love and unity. It is a cultural and political expression for blacks to reaffirm their Afrikan heritage and to continue to organize for the struggle for liberation.

The seven days of the Kwanzaa celebration, the "principles" and their meanings are: Dec. 26, UMOJA, unity; Dec. 27, KUJICHAGULIA, self-determination; Dec. 28, UJIMA, collective work and responsibility; Dec. 29, UJAMAA, cooperative economics; Dec. 30, NIA, purpose, Dec. 31, KUUMBA, creativity; and Jan. 1 IMANI, faith.

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