150 YEARS AGO, THIS CHILD WOULD BE COMMITTING A CRIME.

There was a time in the United States before the Civil War when some people had no rights. It was even a crime for them to read or write. Today, it's a crime if they don't. Now, with State aid to education, the opportunity to learn is boundless. One of our important resources of learning and education is our public libraries.

In 1985 public education agencies will spend 37 cents of each General Fund dollar, 25 cents of which is budgeted to the State Department of Education. This Department administrates the Public Library Program, the State Library Network and the Division of Library Development and Services.

The Maryland State Board of Education has also provided the leadership and helped greatly expand the range of services available to citizens with special needs. Most hearing impaired residents of Maryland now have access to the public library through a teletype. Aging residents in many counties receive a regular library service through such programs as Anne Arundel County's Care-A-Van. Unemployed citizens in Baltimore City and Garrett County can receive job and career information from the public library. Blind residents of the state receive materials from the library for the blind and physically handicapped, and handicapped children in Montgomery County use the Department of Libraries' Microcomputer to meet their special needs. All of these services would not be possible without contributions from the General Fund.*

THIS MESSAGE WAS PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND STATE LOTTERY.

MARVIN H. PUNCHE, DIRECTOR

*The Maryland State Lottery contributed over $209 million to the State General Fund in fiscal year 1984.

Merry Christmas

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- BLACK SPORTS—Special supplement on black sports across the country.
- MR. FRO AND MR. DOUBLEHEADER—Next week's picks. Page 20.

Pre-holiday crime spree hits city

(See column 1)

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The Afro-American

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AFRO Mrs. Santa's finest hour

AFRO photo by Bruce Smallwood

NATIONAL GUARD volunteers from Melvin Cade Armory under Sgt. Lloyd Scott started delivering more than 700 baskets to needy families last Wednesday and will finish delivery Friday (today). Above, Sgt. Scott, Sgt. J.W. Taylor, Sgt. Lamont Graves, Sgt. Timothy Riley, Sgt. Elridge Jones, Sgt. Leonard Mackey, Spc1 A.C. Nock, Sp1 M. Jones, Pvt. M. Jones Jr., Pfc Clyde Terry, Pfc. E. Donald and Pvt. Everett Jones.

The Maryland National Guard has started delivering the first of 700 food baskets in various zones in six trucks to the first cases referred to us by various city agencies, Clean Block leaders and persons writing to the newspaper.

The first 300 baskets worth a total of $4,950 from Food-A-Rama in Mondawmin contained two chickens, bread, 2 cans of peas, can of corn, pound of rice, 10 pounds of potatoes, three pounds apples, jello, cookies, cereal, 5 pounds of flour, noodles, can of milk, green beans, celery, cake mix and stuffing mix.

Sgt. Lloyd Scott's men from Cade Armory and trucks will deliver 200 baskets from Kash and Karry worth $3,000.

These baskets worth $15 each contain 2 chickens, bread, 2 pounds of flour, 2 pounds of rice, black eye peas, box of macaroni, tomato sauce, milk, pork and beans, sweet potatoes, green beans, carrotts, peas, soup, oranges and cookies.

Also on Friday, 200 baskets $15 each containing the same items and worth $3,000 will leave the Giant store on Reistertown Road.

The Guard will not deliver to apartments and housing projects.

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa is mailing 500, $15 coupons worth $7,500 good in any Food-A-Rama Store until January 31, 1985. Persons receiving the coupons must use them by January 31 because after that date, they will not be honored.

Cable-TV bill 575 signed by mayor

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Staff Writer

With the official signing of Cable Bill 575 today (Friday), the final hurdle blocking the awarding of the city's cable television franchise to United Cable Television of Denver has been cleared.

Local residents are now just nine months away from watching the start of construction on the long-awaited $75-880 million cable system.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1985.

Perhaps the most thrilled person of all, now that the months of uphill negotiations have been completed, is Mayor William Donald Schaefer who will join with members of the City Council in officially adopting the bill.

Commenting outside City Hall on Wednesday, Schaefer commended the council for what he called their responsible action in passing the bill with little incident on Monday.

"I think the council acted responsibly. They know this was it (and) had they not acted we would not have had cable, at least not for many years," the mayor said.

At the same time that the council was moving swiftly to approve the 20-year contract award to United by a unanimous vote last Monday, the legislative body once again cautioned the firm against any future violations of that agreement.

The group attached several documents to the bill that warned that any failure to comply with the franchise agreement could result in the council instituting certain provisions outlined in the

Continued on page 2

Thieves rob priests at St. Pius church

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The thieves who robbed St. Pius Catholic Church last Monday did not get the previous day Sunday collection. Fr. Robert M. Kearns, the pastor of the Schroeder Street parish had deposited the funds in the bank, luckily.

However, the three unknown robbers who came in shortly after midnight Dec. 17 did get the $400 set aside to feed the poor. But, most unfortunate of all, Father Robert J. O'Connell, the assistant pastor, was pistol whipped about the head and face suffered severe injuries.

Fr. Kearns, the pastor, told the AFRO that his assistant has 22 stiches in the head and scalp, a black eye and side injuries "but no internal injuries, thank God."

Fr. Kearns, who was not injured, said Fr. O'Connell will probably not feel up to taking his place at the altar Sunday but hopefully will be entirely well soon.

The general community and the congregation have responded wonderfully, Fr. Kearns said, and the needy families, about 200 of them, were cared for with chickens, good food and fresh vegetables Thursday morning.

The incident occurred at 12:15 a.m. Dec. 17 when the three robbers broke into the church through the back of the rectory. Fr. O'Connell was asleep in his room. Fr. Kearns was reading in his room when the noise was heard.

Fr. O'Connell was struck time and again with a gun one of the men had and left on the floor of the second story room. The men proceeded to the third floor and pointing a gun at Fr. Kearns, forced him to go down to the second floor where Fr. O'Connell was and then demanded money.

After Fr. Kearns said he had no money on his person, he was further threatened with the gun and finally unlocked a closet and gave the men the money saved aside for the poor.

Commenting on Fr. O'Connell's ordeal, Fr. Kearns said, "He went through something. He looks terrible from the awful beating. I'd say, however, he is certainly a tough fellow. He is healing OK now."

Police state they have been unsuccessful in their search for the three suspects.

Pre-holiday Crime Wave

In addition to the St. Pius Catholic Church robbery, the week preceeding Christmas witnessed a wave of burglaries which included the office of Dr. Keiffer Mitchell, 1200 block Druid Hill Ave.; Geneva's Beauty Shop, 3800 block Liberty Heights; two banks, two cab drivers, a cut-rate store robbed of $4,800 lottery money also, a newspaper man plus five police officers, two of whom lost their service revolvers, handcuffs, gun belts and ammunition. Three other police officers sustained personal injuries. One was bitten by a suspect and the other kicked on the leg. Another was injured when a suspect tackled him and put a "scissors hold" on him.

Beautician Tied Up

Geneva's Beauty Shop, 3811 Liberty Heights Ave., was robbed around 12 noon Dec. 18 by two men who rushed in, tied up the owner, Ms. Geneva Parks, and then escaped with two days cash.

Ms. Parks told police the two men came in suddenly and tied her up with an electric cord, wrapped it around her neck and after taking all her money, escaped in a copper colored van.

The two men left without a trace and police report as yet no arrests have been made.

Dr. Mitchell's Office Robbed

Dr. Keiffer Mitchell, the prominent physician whose offices are at 1230 Druid Hill Ave., reports that a man about 30 years old and

Continued on page 2

Mr. Fro

A record 3 hits

Mr. Fro came through with two hits last week with 306. Mr. Doubleheader picked 252 on Dec. 14. Check page 20 for next week's Holiday Lottery selections.

Phone access charge to begin

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

Get ready!

That dollar a month access charge is set to go into effect next June for local residential and single-line business C&P telephone customers.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved Wednesday a one-dollar-a month access charge to be added to local telephone bills to cover revenue lost when the American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) Company split and seven new regional firms emerged, each fending for itself.

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Nigerian clashes with Immigration Service

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

Charles Ohaechesi has a short horror story to tell. The young Nigerian honor student, in Baltimore for the past four years, was recently imprisoned on charges of making false statements to obtain a visa.

However those statements were not about Charles but pertained to a relative whom he calls his sister-in-law, Eunice Obi.

Charles is a senior at Coppin, majoring in criminal justice. He is due to graduate this December. His sister-in-law Eunice attends Catonsville Community College.

Last week Eunice, who is married to an American was due to go to the Immigration and Naturalization Services office for a review of her visa.

Her husband was supposed to accompany her, but because the two recently separated, Eunice asked Charles to go instead. Charles is quite candid about what happened after that.

"She was scared so she asked me to go with her. She told me if they asked if I was her husband, I should say yes. I did, but they figured out my accent wasn't American and began questioning me."

That's when Charles' real problems began. He was subsequently detained by immigration of-

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Protest over African village at the zoo

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

The placement of an African village in the Baltimore City Zoo has drawn sharp criticism from several factions in the local community.

Dr. Emmet Burns, region seven director of the NAACP and members of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance have formed a coalition to investigate Baltimore's Sister Cities Program and the location of the African village at the zoo.

"We met with city officials who are responsible for this program because we just wanted to voice our opposition to the location of the village," asserted Rev. Gregory Perkins, chairman of the

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Bias charged at a Fells Pt. nite spot

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

"When I realized what was going on, I was shocked, but I wasn't shocked because of the things that had happened before."

As a result of the treatment which they felt they received, three blacks, Vernice Williams, Bernadette Hunter and Prenterald C. Price have filed a $1 million suit in U.S. District court alleging racial discrimination by the owner of the Acropolis Nightclub, a popular Fells Point night spot.

According to the suit filed December 19, the plantiffs were required to produce multiple pieces of photo identification and to pay $5 cover charge.

Ms. Williams and Ms. Hunter, who are sisters, had been regular patrons of the club for four years and had not been required to show ID or pay a cover charge until recently.

The suit alleges that on separate evenings in December 1984, the two were requested to show identification and pay five dollars.

At a press conference Wednesday, the sisters told members of the press that on some nights they were denied entry into the club, being told that it was too full.

"You could look in the window and see that they weren't."

Ms. Hunter said that once she ordered a beer and it was brought to her warm and without a glass. "I had to ask for a glass," she said flatly.

According to the trio's attorney C. Christopher Brown, discrimination sometimes takes the form of pushing drinks, pushing "mamichies" or just ignoring black patrons.

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