—54-year-old man

Continued from page 1

by two youths who traveled through the park Sept. 28.

The two youths, who asked not to be identified, said that they smelled a foul odor as they crossed a baseball diamond in the park. As the two reached the foot of a small hill near the baseball diamond, the odor grew stronger and there they found the woman's body decaying and covered with flies. Police were called to the scene.

The victim's mother told the AFRO that her daughter's body was so badly decayed that no time could be wasted before burying her. She was buried on Oct. 3.

When the woman's body unwrapped in red, was pulled from beneath the tree, police crime lab technicians discovered several deep stab wounds to her chest and shoulder area. Signs of strangulation were also found.

Detective Gene Cumberland, at the scene, determined that the woman's body had been in the park for about two days. However Detective Cumberland was unable to determine whether the woman was killed in the park, or elsewhere and brought there.

No identification was found on the body, but several days later, city crime lab specialists identified the woman as Ms. Cruse through dental records. Her address was listed in the 1500 block of Hope St. in East Baltimore.

The victim was one of three children. She lived alone on Hope St. Her mother lives in the 900 block of Rutland Ave. She was a nursing trainee at Coppin State College.

The victim's mother, Iva Cruse, said that her daughter had been missing for several days when police contacted her. Her neighbors said that it was hard to tell if Ms. Cruse was missing because she stayed on the go.

After hearing about Cruse's death, her neighbor, Joanne Hillman said, "It's hard to believe that she's gone because I would see her all the time, she was such a friendly person. She was never involved in any trouble around here . . . always taking care of business."

Ms. Cruse, the victim's mother, said that she knew Griffin as a married man who her daughter had dated for over two years. She said that Ann loved Griffin, who was 34-years her senior, and became attached to him for his fatherly image.

"Ann never really had a father. Her father lives in Baltimore, but he denied her when she was born. Robert fulfilled her need for a father-like man in her life, but before her death, I could tell that he was going through some changes," the victim's mother told the AFRO:

"I don't know what happened to my daughter, but when I find out I want to make other people aware so that it doesn't happen to them. I would be less than a mother not to warn others," she added.

To date, no other suspects have been arrested in the case.

Griffin's trial will begin at 9 a.m. in room 200 of the Clarence M. Mitchell Courthouse.

—City board

Continued from page 1

the fall," said Smith who added that the entire system will be built and operative by 1989.

In fact, he added, United Cable Television of Baltimore, builders and designers of the city's cable system, are optimistic that it will be completed in 1988.

Heavy construction on the one thousand mile long state-of-the-art cable system will get underway in early May.

Construction is being supervised by the project's General Contractor, the Jerrold Division of Philadelphia, assisted by the firm of Burnup and Sims, a nationally recognized utility and cable construction company.

United is also reportedly interviewing several local and out-of-town minority firms to work as sub-contractors on the cable television construction project.

MPF Environmentals, a locally based asbestos removal firm, owned and operated by blacks, recently was awarded a $30,000 contract to assist in the renovation of United's future headquarters inside the Kirk Building in East Baltimore.

On Wednesday, the Board of Estimates approved a financing agreement which will allow Smith's agency to purchase new equipment to upgrade its facility.

The production equipment—valued at $400,000—includes a production field van, multi-camera field production system, studio editing system and a specialized office computer capable of tracking cable system construction and response to subscriber questions and complaints.

This new equipment will be used to provide programming for the city's government channel—one of 12 public access channels available on the 80-channel system—and run by the Mayor's Office of Cable & Communications.

Subscribers will be able to tune into City Council and Department of Recreation and Parks meetings by using the government channel, said Smith.

They will also be able to discover which Baltimore City Public Schools will be closed during poor weather days.

The funds approved by the Board of Estimates on Wednesday will be reimbursed from annual franchise fees paid to the city by United Cable of Baltimore.

The cable television franchise fees will total just under $2 million annually.

—Council

Continued from page 1

Monday evening has heightened the already intense outcry against illegal handguns.

The victim, Brent Jordan was shot during an argument with a teenager in a school hallway between classes. He died Monday evening at Johns Hopkins Hosptial after remaining in critical condition since the shooting.

Less than four months ago, another Lake Clifton student, 15-year-old Kevin "Muggsy" Diggs was gunned down by three youths who didn't attend the school. Diggs died in a pool of blood outside the school. The cases of three suspects arrested for Digg's murder are still pending.

This proposed bill is the first step towards controlling the use and possession of handguns among the city's youth. With the two recent schoolground shootings, many parents have become deeply concerned with their children's well-being while attending school.

According to Lynne Bishop, secretary to the city school police chief, a student who is found with a handgun or weapon is arrested, expelled from school and charged with possession. City parents and members of the City Council have charged that further measures are needed to control the problem.

During Monday's city council meeting, McFadden asked for the Council and private citizen's support in his effort to persuade the General Assembly to grant Baltimore "Home Rule" on handguns.

"Home Rule" means that Baltimore City would enact its own legislation in regards to handguns.

After discussing the handgun issue with the Coordinating Council or Criminal Justice head, Mary Anne Willen, last month, councilman Tony Ambridge suggested that if Baltimore is granted "home rule" on handguns, it is likely that the state police would oversee.

Councilman Ambridge and Ms. Willen are currently forming a anti-handgun committee for Baltimore City.

A priority item for the committee, according to Ambridge, will be to stop the passing of the Mc Clure-Volkmer Bill, one that would weaken existing many gun regulations.

The Mc Clure - Volkmer Bill, which is opposed by every major law enforcement organization in the United States, is supported by many gun dealers and the National Rifle Association. The National Rifle Association is currently sponsoring a million dollar lobbying effort in its favor.

Seat belt bill nears action by legislature

According to one member of the Legislative Black Caucus, House Bill 110, which requires that a person may not operate a motor vehicle unless each occupant in the front passenger and driver seat is restrained by a seat belt, has a "50-50" chance of passing in the House.

The bill is sponsored by 11 members of the House including Dels. Elijah Cummings and Mary B. Adams.

Two weeks ago, the state Senate passed a mandatory seat belt bill, not unlike the one it passed last session.

Last year, the House Judiciary Committee killed the bill by a vote of 14 to 4 after hearing arguments that the use of seat belts should be a matter of personal choice.

It's an argument heard this year.

Mandatory buckling up is the law in 16 states and in the District of Columbia. The Virginia Legislature is also currently considering a mandatory seat belt law.

The Maryland Committee For Safety Belt Use reports seat belts could have saved "a minimum of 290 lives in 1985," if there would have been a mandatory seat belt law.

The Committee, in its fact sheet said Medical records indicate that automobile accidents are the principal cause of the increase in the number of paraplegia, quadraplegia and epilepsy.

"This is not hard to understand when records show that 58 percent of unrestrained occupants hit their heads against the steering wheel, windshield glass or frame, and another 21 percent are ejected from their cars and usually land on their heads in an unfriendly environment."

These and other facts were brought home as many people journeyed to Annapolis on Wednesday to testify at hearings before the House Judiciary Committee.

Many people testified that their loves ones could have been saved if there had been a mandatory law.

Time running out for state scholarship aid

Applications for State and Federal student financial assistance for defraying the cost of postsecondary education are now available from all Maryland college and university financial aid offices and high school guidance offices.

Signed and completed application forms should be mailed no later than March 1, but applicants are encouraged to mail the form by mid-February to insure that it is processed on time for consideration by the Maryland State Scholarship Board.

Applicants should check with the college of their choice to be sure that it does not have an earlier or different deadline.

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"Many intelligent men and women are held back in their jobs and social lives because they use poor English or can't speak and write effectively," says Don Bolander, director of Career Institute.

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Bolander has made available a free booklet that tells how you can gain the ability to speak and write like a college graduate, right in your home. Just send your name and address on a card or letter to Don Bolander, Career Institute, Dept. 445-026, 422 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, N.J. 07424. The booklet will be mailed promptly with no obligation, of course.

—Provident Hospital

Continued from page 1

tacted the AFRO shortly before the scheduled start of the closed-door meeting and indicated that the governor would finally take action to help bail-out the troubled West Baltimore medical institution.

"The $2.5 million will come to the General Assembly through a supplemental budget that will be presented within the next 60 days," the AFRO was told.

Attached to the $2.5 million loan agreement are several "stringent" conditions requiring among other things that plans for a merger between Provident and Lutheran Hospital be submitted by April 1, the source explained.

"The merger plan must be consistent with the cost containment package passed by the General Assembly in 1985," the source added.

Hughes is said to be certain that support for the $2.5 million loan in the state legislature will be tied to whether Provident is able to present a merger plan that will result in significant bed reductions at both institutions.

This latest development could mean that the Baltimore City Council will quit stalling on its final vote on a $1 million supplementary appropriation for the black owned and operated hospital.

Twice the council has tabled a vote because of delays in finalizing the state loan. Both the city and state joined together to draft a $4.5 million loan package for the hospital.

John A. Schaefer, Chairman of the City Council's Budget and Appropriations Committee commented Monday that he was confident the governor wouldn't "do anything that will hurt Provident."

He also indicated that as soon as the state loan was in place council action would be swift.

"We would act on it and rush it to the Mayor (and) a check could be cut," said Schaefer.

Urban League taking scholarship applications

The National Urban League announces that the Dart & Kraft/NUL Scholarship and Intern Program for Minority Students will award ten $10,000 major scholarships and five $1,000 stipends to minority students with career interests in engineering, sales or marketing, manufacturing operations, finance and business administration.

The major scholarships and summer intern opportunities will be awarded to minority students who are pursuing full-time studies leading to a Bachelor's degree at an accredited institution of higher learning.

Candidates must be undergraduate college or university students who will be classified as juniors or third-year students at the time the scholarship and stipend award commences. Students must rank within the top 25 percent of their class at the time the application is made.

Application forms may be obtained from the Baltimore Urban League, Inc., 1150 Mondawmin Concourse, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. Completed forms must be received by the BUL no later than April 16, 1986.

—Newest millionaire

Continued from page 1

winning ticket was purchased at State Drugs on Liberty Rd. The ticket is worth $705,103.12.

The drawing on Nov. 2, 1985 has one unclaimed winning ticket. The winning number for that drawing was 04-14-18-24-34-38 and the unclaimed ticket is worth a lump sum payment of $88,052.21. The ticket was purchased at 7-11 on Amherst Ave. in Wheaton, Maryland.

The drawing on Jan. 25, 1986 had one winning ticket which is unclaimed. The number was 03-05-07-23-29-36. The ticket is worth $1,523,367.15. The ticket was purchased at Elkridge Liquors in Elkridge, Maryland.

Table knives are a rather late innovation. Until about 1600, diners brought to the table their own knives.

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"The Color of Freedom" is a special four-part Black History Month series on the economic development of Black America brought to you by Tony Brown's Journal.

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For an issue of the Tony Brown's Journal Magazine, featuring Black historical facts and containing program transcripts and background information, please enclose $3.00 and send to:
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Gala ceremony celebrates Balto.'s Best anniversary

Oprah Winfrey, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Oriole first baseman Eddie Murray will be among those who will join Mayor Schaefer and the citizens of Baltimore on Feb. 20 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall for this grand scale celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the "Baltimore's Best" Nomination Awards Ceremony.

February marks a new beginning for the 10-year-old semi-annual awards ceremony. The ceremony has now become an annual event with many exciting innovative changes. Ms. Winfrey will be the focal point of one of those changes. As the first recipient of the HOMECOMING CELEBRITY Award, she will set a precedent for this special tribute that will be given each year to a person who has developed his/her fame in Baltimore.

Despite the "facelift" of the ceremony, Mayor Schaefer will continue the "Baltimore's Best" tradition of honoring this year's Award Winners and the "Best of Baltimore's Best" 1985, Baltimore Regional Burn Center — Francis Scott Key Medical Center, with special presentations.

Another favorite tradition that will continue is the appearance of George Lewis, Channel 45's Captain Chesapeake, as the master of ceremonies. He will introduce the Award Winners and performances by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Handel Choir of Baltimore and the Baltimore School for the Arts Chorus.

This gala event is free and open to the public. You can join the festivities by picking up advance tickets at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall ticket office. For further information, call 396-5786.

"BEST OF BALTIMORE'S BEST" 1985

Baltimore Regional Burn Center of Francis Scott Key Medical Center, Nationally acclaimed for its critical and outstanding medical care. This effort is fostered by a "family" of special people.

SILVER AND BLUE AWARD FINALISTS

Eddie Murray, By funding programs at the future Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Center in Leakin Park, Eddie gives back to the Baltimore community his resources and personal inspiration to guide disadvantaged youths to fuller, more meaningful lives.

Vincent Adolfo and Marcellus Ward, Both were dedicated officers who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty in an effort to reduce crime on our streets.

Dorothy Brunson, A dedicated community activist and philanthropist, generous with her time and energy establishing/sponsoring charities.

Saul Lilienstein, Nicknamed "Mr. Wonder Man" by students, teachers and parents, this outstanding principal has made great strides to improve the quality of education at Public School #98, Samuel F. B. Morse Elementary School.

Willie L. Grier, Jr., Nicknamed "Mr. Wonder Man" by students, teachers and parents, this outstanding principal has made great strides to improve the quality of education at Public School No. 98, Samuel F. B. Morse Elementary School.

Health Education Resource Organization (HERO), A courageous group leading the way in building support and understanding for victims of AIDS.

Kenny Cooper, Insisting that all his players become true Baltimoreans, with their hearts and minds rooted in this City, he makes the Baltimore Blast truly our own. He "blasts" our pride to great heights, and enthusiastically promotes our community coast to coast.

Dr. Levi Watkins, Committed to racial equality, particularly in the area of medicine, this outstanding sdurgeon, through nationally recognized efforts, is instrumental in increasing minority representation among medical students and faculty at Johns Hopkins.

Francis W. Kuchta, As Director of Baltimore's Department of Public works he serves our citizens in an exemplary manner.

Reesa Woolf, As concierge at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, she gladly ministers to the many and varied needs of the guests.

Sergeant George T. Henneman, Through his tireless efforts with the Police Department's Explorers Program, this caring individual serves as a role model for youth in the Northern District.

Neighborhood Design Center, Inc., Assisting in the renovation of Baltimore's low income neighborhoods by providing free architectral landscaping and planning assistance.

Thomas B. Canoles, Jr., Obtained grants for and supervised the restoration of the Canton Branch Library and O'Donnell Square.

SILVER AND FINALISTS

Elwood L. Fletcher, Sr., Alias "Buttons" — he spends his time "clowning" around for patients in area hospitals and nursing homes and at charitable events, bringing laughter and a smile.

Dr. Rusty White, Founder and Director of the Northwest Citizen Patrol Group/Volunteer dedicated to patroling and protecting their community.

June Cooper, A dedicated volunteer for over 30 years, primarily in the areas of education and health.

Xerox Corporation, A dependable and understanding corporation sponsoring charity events and donating equipment.

Fred Neil, Totally committed to making known the accomplishments of disabled persons, he guides rehabilitation professionals and inspires the handicapped.

Lyn Brooks, As the Triathlon organizer, she brought national and international attention to Baltimore.

Reba Schwartz, Developed a program called Tele-Care for people livjng alone. It has served our City for over thirteen years.

Craig March, "A one-man trasheradicator" in his Barclay neighborhood, — he shovels snow from alleys and streets.

Non-Denominational Gospel Crusaders, Truly committed to the call of caring, this ecumenical group transcends religious differences to serve their fellow man in his greatest needs.

Margaret S. Boulden, A visionary pioneer in promoting Baltimore, who founded the Holytour 21 years ago to rediscover our treasured downtown churches and homes.

Gayle Raiber, In Hollander Ridge, this dedicated citizen donates resources and endless hours of time to the elderly.

Tom Taylor, Unselfishly, for twelve years, this exemplary citizen has donated his time after school to inspire youth as a volunteer soccer and basketball coach.

The Maryland Primary Health Care Association recently launched its 'Can Do' Food Drive, a volunteer effort designed to fill baskets with canned goods and other non-perishable items for needy Baltimore families. This took place during the holidays and is being continued into the winter months. The 'Can Do' Good Drive is a city-wide effort sponsored by the Baltimore Health Care Community. Interdepominational Council of Religious Organizations and the Baltimore Cab community. Above Sheryl Smith, a representative from the West Baltimore Health Care Center, and Rev. Wendell Phillips, of the Interdenominational Council on Religious Organizations, demonstrate how the program works.

Senate bill toughens fair housing rights

Declaring that their Fair Housing Amendments Act is one of the unfinished pieces of business on the civil rights agenda, Senators Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. (R-Md.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) have introduced legislation to strengthen the enforcement provisions of the existing act and broaden the base of protection to include disabled persons and families with children.

Said Mathias, "Our bill amends the Fair Housing Act, which is Title VIII of the 1968 Civil Rights Act, to make it costly and difficult to discriminate in housing, and will serve as a strong deterrent to potential abusers."

Current law prohibits discrimination in the rental, sale, marketing, financing, and related activities affecting housing.

"But," pointed out Mathias, "the law lacks an effective means of enforcement other than the courts — a long and costly process for all parties."

"The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that there are more than two million instances of racial housing discrimination each year," he continued, "but only 4,500 complaints are ever filed with HUD or similar state and local agencies because of the lack of confidence citizens have in the existing conciliation process." He added that only 20 percent of complaints that are filed are successfully resolved.

Mathias said that the fair housing bill would ensure a speedy, fair, and inexpensive decision process for all parties in cases where persons allege housing discrimination.

Under the bill the first avenue of redress for the victim of housing discrimination is the existing HUD conciliation process, where the department investigates the complaint and attempts to conciliate between the two parties. Alternatively, if a state or local agency is certified by HUD, the case is immediately referred to that agency for action, or it can be submitted to binding arbitration if both parties agree.

In instances where conciliation efforts fail, the Mathias-Kennedy bill provides for an independent administrative law judge (ALJ) to her the case, decide the facts, and render a decision.

The original act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Mathias-Kennedy bill extends that protection to the disabled and to families with children.

"It is a national disgrace that disabled Americans and families

Continued on page 7

Bonnie Butler named entertainment editor

The executive editor of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, Bob Matthews, announced this week, the appointment of Bonnie Matthews Butler as Entertainment Editor for the AFRO newspapers chain.

A graduate of Morgan State University, she has been actively engaged in newspaper work practically all of her life. She is a granddaughter of the late Carl Murphy, and served as account executive, as well as manager of the Baltimore advertising department of the paper.

She succeeds Mrs. Ida Murphy Peters as entertainment editor, and has direct responsibility for the entertainment contest, including the Friday Plus section of the AFRO.

Bonnie Butler

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Winter won't get you down when you can get up in the air with United's special low Winter Ultra Saver fares. You can save up to 75% off regular Coach fares.

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There is a 25% penalty for all ticket changes and refunds. And there will be a $20 premium charged for Saturday travel to and from the ski gateways of Denver, Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City, Boise and Reno. On all tickets to Boston, there will be an additional fuel surcharge of $2.50.

Seats are limited, so don't delay. Call your Travel Agent or United.

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