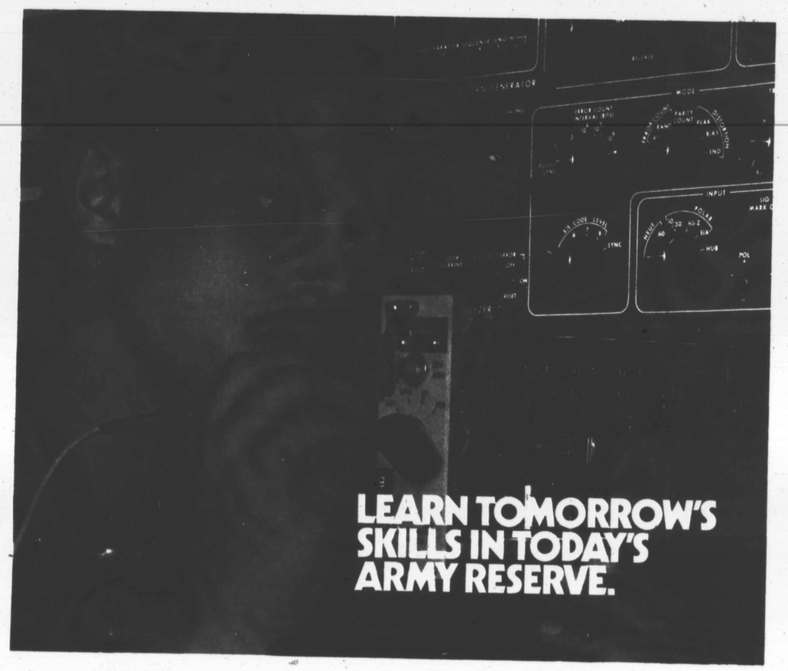

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- FRIDAY PLUS — An Easter Time TV Trivia Quiz for you
- LOTTERY — Page 18.

40,000 in city waiting for housing

(See column 5)

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LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore Afro American

94TH YEAR NO. 66 BALTIMORE, MD. MARCH 29, 1986 40 CENTS

Major Harper now Northwest top cop

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Police Commissioner Bishop L. Robinson scored another plus Wednesday when he appointed Major Bernard Harper to command Northwest Police District succeeding Major Joseph Boleste, Jr.

Harper was elevated from captain to major at promotional ceremonies at Police Headquarters at 10 a.m. at the same time Lt. Joseph S. Johnson was also promoted to major.

Major Johnson replaces Major Bessie Norris who is on leave from command post of the Southwest District.

As head of the Northwest District Major Harper, a veteran 18 years on the force, commands 200 officers, supervisors and civilians as follows: Five lieutenants; 25 sergeants; 179 officers and five civilians. Harper was previously in the Criminal Investigation Division.

Major Johnson also has 18 years service and was previously assigned to the Tactical Section.

The promotion of Harper and Johnson to major and their new posts raises the number of black command staff personnel to nine.

Each is appointed by Commissioner Robinson and each serves at his pleasure.

The black command staffers are:

Deputy Commissioner Edward J. Tilghman, the deputy to Commissioner Bishop L. Robinson.

Major John A. Barnes - Eastern

Major Marcellus Bowles - Western

Major Joseph S. Johnson - S.W.

Major Bessie Norris (now on leave)

Major Bernard Harper - Northwestern

Major George L. Christian - Community Relations

Col. Edward V. Woods - Traffic

Lt. Col. Joseph W. Nixon - Deputy Chief of Area I (Central, Southwest and Southern)

Others include:

Major Marvin L. Spivak - Central

Major Charles J. DiPino - Southeast

Major John C. Lewandowski - Northeast

Major Daniel O. Caulk - Northern

Lt. Col. Leon N. Tomlin - Property Division

Lt. Col. Joseph R. Bolesta, Jr. - Patrol, Area III (formerly head of Northwestern

Lt. Col. Richard Connelly - Patrol Division Area II

Major Regis Raffensberger - Tactical

Col. Harry C. Allender - Criminal Investigation

Major Bernard Harper

DEL. LARRY YOUNG TO HEAD:

New health commission to study black problems

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS — Governor Harry Hughes has established a commission on Black and Minority Health.

Signed into existence with a stroke of the pen Wednesday, the commission consists of 25 members of the state's health, legal, educational and civic communities.

Chairman is Del. Larry Young (D.-39th), who was instrumental in its creation.

The Governor's Commission on Black and Minority Health, will carefully examine programs and policy in the state as it relates to Maryland's black and minority populations.

There will be an opportunity for public participation with meetings and hearings.

Of particular interest to the commission will be the causes of the increase of youth homicide as it relates to black males.

The commission will also identify and review prevention strategies of a number of ailments which strike minority populations with greater frequency.

Many of those ailments, including heart disease, stroke, and cancer have been identified as the leading causes of death among minorities.

The commission will also examine other health concerns such as teenage pregnancy, mental health, chemical dependency, lead poisoning and sexually transmitted and communicable diseases.

Delegate Young called the executive order, "a strong one," and said he was pleased with the "major step for the state." Also pictured are Del. Elijah Cummings (seated), and Dels. Nathaniel Oaks and Decatur Trotter.

Governor Hughes (L) Wednesday signed an executive order which created a Commission of Black and Minority Health. Del. Larry Young (seated next to Gov. Hughes) called the move, a

Continued on page 8

Provident nurses return to the table

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

Provident Hospital and its striking registered nurses returned to the bargaining table today (Friday) for the first time since February 28.

Little progress is expected in the talks which were held at the Sheraton-Hopkins and Larry Grosser, labor consultant for the Maryland Nurses Association, the union which represents the nurses said, "we really didn't want to go."

Grosser has maintained that money was never the issue in this strike, now in its second month, although the nurses walked off their jobs after refusing to accept a five percent pay cut sought by the hospital as a cost-cutting measure.

Grosser said the nurses he represents say trustee George L. Russell, "broke his word to them."

Said Grosser, "George Russell committeed the cruelest of unfair labor practices. He broke his word."

Of the 65 registered nurses at Provident, 13 have continued to work there during the strike. Many of the others have found temporary employment.

"It's absolute folly to come to the table," Grosser complained and added the nurses aren't likely to do anything until the National Labor Relations Board rules on a complaint filed by the

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POLITICS '86

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Political Writer

Isaiah Fletcher's name came up again in connection with the 7th Congressional District primary race which some are already calling the "more the merrier" fall political showdown.

You might recall that this aide to Mayor Schaefer, who works in the Department of Health and appears occasionally on WJZ-TV's "Square Off" program, was being touted recently as a likely Republican candidate for that seat.

Of course, Fletcher using his customary ingratiating manner, with that deep and near perfect enunciated speaking voice, feigned ignorance about the whole matter though he thanked his fans for finding him worthy of such a prestigious political job.

Well, as they say, "the cat is out of the bag" and these supporters have emerged and formed what they have described as a "movement to encourage and support" a Fletcher bid for Congress, calling themselves "The Friends of Isaiah Fletcher."

At a recent Saturday fete, hosted by a couple of Fletcher for Congress boosters, a bunch of them gathered to sip wine, down

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Easter week dawns, tragedy continues

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Peace, brotherly love and harmony did not cover the world this week at the dawn of the highest holy Christian holiday, Easter.

Highlight of Holy Week's three fires was the one on Auchentoroly Terrace which is described by Fire Department officials as the result of arsonists.

A woman's body was found on the third floor bedroom of the house in the 3200 block Auchentoroly Terrace crouched between wall and a radiator.

An adult male was also discovered by police inside a rear third floor bedroom. Both the man and the woman were pronounced dead on the arrival of investigating officers. Two small children who survive were hid in a second floor closet.

Homicide and fire officials are investigating.

Eastside Blaze March 26

Two-year old JoAnn Morgan suffered third degree burns in the fire at 1040 N. Broadway at 3:45 p.m. March 26. At AFRO presstime the toddler was listed in critical condition at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Police reports state that investigation reveals the child was under a mattress playing with a cigarette lighter that may have started the blaze.

Reports also say that the child, her 5-year old sister and 8-year old brother were in the house alone. An aunt who they learned had been left to supervise the children had left the home. She had been given custody of the older boy and girl after both parents had been confined to jail.

Church Janitor Accused

James Elmer Washington, 68, 1700 block Ellamont St., the janitor at St. Vincent DePaul Church, 100 N. Front St., has been charged with sex offenses involving an 11-year old girl.

The girl told police she had been enticed into the church basement on five occasions between October, 1985 and March 12 by the elderly man who gave her candy, money and games.

Police were told Washington sent notes to the youngster's mother who is a member of the church. The notes said the man liked the child and invited her to meet him in the church basement.

Washington is free on $10,000 bail on charges of second degree rape, third and fourth degree sex offenses and sodomy.

Policewoman Injured

Police Officer Lynette Nevins, 30, of Northwestern District, a policewoman since 1983, was injured when a man threw her off the front porch of a house in the 3700 block W. Garrison Avenue March 25.

The 11 p.m. incident came as Policewoman Nevins was attempting to make an arrest.

Police reports show she was treated at Sinai Hospital for injuries to her ears, face and hands.

Inner Harbor Incident

A seaman is reported to have fallen overboard The Lorina, a Green merchant ship in the Inner

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Cong. briefing held apartheid discussed

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

A first-quarter report card, of sorts, was issued on the U.S. and its actions against South Africa and its apartheid regime, at a briefing on Wednesday morning, sponsored by Cong. Parren J. Mitchell in Baltimore.

The briefing was attended by Congressmen Walter Fauntroy (D.-DC), George Crockett (D.-MI), Howard Wolpe (D.-MI.), and Michael Barnes (D.-MD.).

Also attending was Rep. Barbara Mikulski, (D.-MD.), who said in her remarks, "Apartheid makes for terrible human rights policy and it makes for terrible economic policy."

While the congress has taken some action against the South African government, most of the congressmen agreed that more could be done.

"The big question," said Cong. Mitchell, "is what is America doing?"

"I am especially proud of the job that the Congress has done so far to repudiate the Reagan Administration's South Africa policy and to force this country to impose meaningful economic sanctions against the apartheid regime," Cong. Barnes said in his remarks.

"But, we must do more and quickly."

Barnes said he supported conditional disinvestment, immediate removal of all U.S.

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Urban Services reassigns Family Services workers

By R.B. Jones
Part IV

The Urban Services Agency administration, in response to pleas by center directors expressing the drastic nature of their understaffing problems, has abolished the Family Services component of the agency and has told workers in that unit that they will be assigned to neighborhood centers around the city.

"The Family Services Program was considered to be one of the better programs in the agency," said one worker.

"We handle families that have multiple problems such as eviction proceedings, lack of food, truancy among young people, teenage pregnancy a whole host of difficulties.

"We cut through the red tape that sometimes keeps people from getting help. We get a lot of referrals from other agencies because we really follow our cases through. Sometimes on our own time" said one worker who is dismayed about the closing of the unit.

Workers found out about the closing Wednesday after supervisors attended a meeting with administration. "We had no piror

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Crisis in housing, some wait 10 years for a vacancy

By Racine S. Winborne

The waiting area on the fifth floor of 231 E. Baltimore Street, home of the Housing Application Office for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC), an agency under the banner of the Neighborhood Progress Administration, is surprisingly upbeat.

The walls have been painted a royal blue streaked with brown and yellow and sky-blue lines. Several rows of plastic chairs, each a different color, are almost perfectly aligned and facing a long bright orange receptionist's desk.

Here is where the single mothers and occasionally a few single male parents come, along with the elderly and less frequently the disabled in search of low-to-moderate-income public housing.

Many may wait for as much as eight to 10 years for a vacancy inside a low-rise or high-rise housing development or for the choice Section 8 subsidized housing which will mean a chance to live in a normal community environment away from the stigma associated with projects and welfare.

Still, they come, at least 100 applicants weekly, swelling an ever-growing housing application list well beyond its present 41,000 mark, with no apparent end in sight.

Critics argue that local housing officials should cease processing the forms which they charge create a false sense of hope when in fact there are no vacancies available.

One such organization which has been critical of HABC and the city's commitment to housing the poor, Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization requested and got Baltimore City Councilman Kweisi Mfume to introduce a resolution two weeks ago calling for a one-year moratorium on the processing of housing applications.

Two groups, the elderly and those persons with emergency housing needs, would be exempted from the non-binding resolution which basically asks NPA Commissioner Marion Pines to consider imposing the moratorium, but can not legally force her to do so.

The resolution was passed by the council two weeks ago.

"The resolution is really designed ot get a dialogue started on a problem that has been going on here for a long time. This would allow the housing (application office) to streamline its operations and bring it up to date," Mfume explained.

Within HABC there are more than a few people who, while they say they also feel there is a need to discover ways to create greater housing opportunities for the city's poor, they don't believe imposing a moratorium is the answer.

"Who will be served by this moratorium? The advocates like Bob Cheeks all know that their ((applicants) chances of getting housing are slim. We also let them know this.

"A year's moratorium isn't going to tell them anything they don't already know, that there isn't any new housing being built and there aren't any vacancies," Mrs. Helen P. George, Chief of the Housing Application Office said.

Neither side argues that the main problem is dwindling fedcral dollars and a dramatic decrease in the number of public housing development projects budgeted under the Reagan Administration.

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MAR 1986