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Tablets **Giant Brand Aspirin** bot. or 250 Reg. 4.99 **99¢**

Fresh **Florida Star Fruit** in the Produce Dept. Reg. 1.99 lb. **99¢** lb.

Giant Brand **Yellow Popcorn** 32-oz. bag Reg. 99¢ **49¢**

Pizza-for-One **Celeste Cheese Pizza** 6.5-oz. pkg. Reg. 1.18 **59¢**

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CROWD OF SORROW — Mourners choked the streets outside the church where Rico Marshall lay in state during his funeral Thursday.

Autopsy shows cocaine killed student

Over 300 at Rico rites

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Close to 300 people gathered at the Morning Side Baptist Church in Capitol Heights, Md. to attend the funeral of Rico Marshall.

The church was overflowing with mourners, most of whom were Marshall's classmates excused from school to attend the service.

All who contemplate Rico's death will be compelled to compare him to Len Bias, the University of Maryland basketball star who died of a cocaine overdose.

Marshall and Bias were both from Landover and both were promising young black athletes who had their lives ahead of them.

Ushers comforted Mrs. Marshall, Rico's mother, as she raised her hand, expressing the pain she felt after losing her son.

Mrs. Marshall, at one point, jumped up and down as spasms caused her entire body to jerk.

Other relatives joined her in her sorrow as she cried.

Anji Hollis, a friend of Rico's, sang "His Eye Is On the Sparrow," as tears streamed down her face.

"I sing because Rico is free," she sang.

Rev. Hillsman had a message for the Washington area media. "Let's set the record straight," he said. "Rico was a fine young man. He touched each and all of our hearts. I'll tell it to the world, he was a fine young man. We don't have all the story. The rest has not been told.

"I don't believe that Rico took anything," he said. "He was not that kind of man. Rico gave himself to Christ. Thank God that Rico will live forever."

Paul Lewis, Forestville High School principal, told the mourners that God works in mysterious ways.

"We must trust in God and have faith in him," he said. "It's easy to have faith in God when he smiles on us. But it's hard when we think God has forsaken us.

"God is delivering a powerful message, and it is up to us to learn," he said.

According to police, Marshall died after swallowing six small "rocks" of crack, a form of cocaine.

He allegedly swallowed the co-

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Reservoir Hill up in arms

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

La-Tonya's death has stirred action in Baltimore.

Tuesday night, at Eutaw Marshburn Elementary, city and state legislators, police and community people gathered to discuss safety measures for children and adults in Reservoir Hill.

"It took the death of La-Tonya Wallace before anyone did anything about the problem," said a teenager as he questioned police at the one-and-a-half hour long meeting. Two adults agreed.

Col. Richard A. Lanham, chief of investigation into La-Tonya's death, said, "It took December 7-the bombing of Pearl Harbor-to get Americans to wake up, that something was going to happen."

"And I hope the people will rise to this occasion," he said.

Reservoir Hill has been plagued with drug-trafficking and other crimes. Last year, there were a total of 392 arrests, including robbery, aggravated assaults and larceny, police said.

Following the horrid and brutal death of 11-year-old La-Tonya, many parents are concerned about their children's safety and want police protection in the area, which encompasses Park and Lennox Avenues and Whitelock Street.

"I'm afriad to let them (children) go anywhere," Mary Palmer, of the 900 block of N. Carrollton Avenue said, "Someone could snatch my children."

On Feb. 4, La-Tonya, last seen leaving a multi-purpose center in the 200 block of Park Avenue that Tuesday, was found stabbed and strangled in the 700 block of Newington Avenue.

Police have yet to establish a motive for her killing.

However, Col. Lanham said police beleive the fifth grader knew her assailant and that her body was removed from the original "crime scene".

"There is a crime scene some place," he said. "We have technical experts that can try and locate that scene."

Because it rained on Feb. 4, police believe if any evidence was left, it might have been washed away.

Lanham refused to believe her death was drug-and sexually-related. He said he hopes that someone saw the littl girl before she was murdered, will come forward.

Police have been working with psychiatrists, psychologists and

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D.C. residents battle drugs

By Robyn- Denise Yourse
AFRO Staff Writer

Hundreds of District residents are expected to join a coalition of community organizations Saturday, as a campaign to eliminate the sale of drug paraphernalia in neighborhood stores begins amid the area's soaring epidemic of drug-related homicides.

Already this year, about 90 percent of the city's 46 murders have involved disputes over drugs, police officials said, and frequently include the use of high-powered weapons.

seeks to modify existing city statutes which restrict the sale of some cigarette rolling papers, pipes and clips.

The rally will begin at 11 A.M. in front Mr. P's His and Her Style Shop at 709 Kennedy St., NW, a spokesperson for the group said.

"Businesses in the District of Columbia have a responsibility to care about the products they sell and what overall effect that these products have on the drug epidemic which plaques our schools, communities and families," said Coalition member Donald Freeman. "We shall no longer tolerate the sale of rolling papers which are used to smoke marijuana and PCP.

"The CCSR was formed to stand against all commercial establishments that sell products that enable the drug abusers to get high and poison their bodies," he said.

The issue surrounding drug paraphernalia surfaced again last month when District Public Health Commissioner Reed Tuckson appealed to the makers of Tops Rolling Paper to remove two billboards advertising the product that were placed near two city high schools.

But the product is not included aong those outlawed by D.C. Law 4-149 — more commonly known as the Drug Paraphernalia Act of 1982.

Under the act, products like Tops, manufactured 50 years or earlier are excluded from the measure while more contemporary items such as "EZ Wider" rolling papers could net hefty penalties for their sellers. Those convicted could face a six month jail sentence along with a $1,000 fine for a first offense while repeat offenders would be imprisoned for up to two years and fined $5,000.

Other surrounding jurisdictions have also imposed stiff penalties. According to Assistant

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Citywide services for Lent

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

In celebration of the beginning of Lent, parishioners from several churches throughout the Upton-Bolton Hill area gathered at Trinity Baptist Church, 1601 Druid Hill Ave. for annual ecumenical Lenten services.

The participating churches include Bethel AME, Brown Presbyterian-Park Avenue, City Temple Baptist, Douglas Memorial Community, Enon Baptist, Memorial Episcopal, Metropolitan United Methodist, Providence Baptist, Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist, Trinity Baptist and Union Baptist.

Trinity's pastor, Rev. William C. Calhoun, was the host pastor at the noon service which drew some 200 persons.

He gave a warm greeting to those present, inviting them to attend the special services each day at noon. A light lunch will also be served weekly.

The Lenten season marks the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

By tradition, during this period Christians are prepared for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ through fasting, prayer and self-examination.

The preacher for the opening service was Rev. Eugene Matthews, pastor of Sharp Street United Methodist Church. His text was taken from Matthew 6:16-18, and he preached from the subject, "Playing Is Serious Business."

He challenged the audience to go by the rules of alms giving, prayer and fasting in playing the Christian game.

Also taking part in the religious occasion was soloist Sherry Hunt who was a member of the cast "Mama I Want To Sing." With poise and conviction, she sang "Yes God Is Real."

Calhoun said there will be a preacher and guest soloist week-

(Continued on page 3)

Free school buses proposed

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore legislators in Annapolis are trying to secure free school transportation privileges for city school children that other students in the state currently enjoy.

Before last year, students in public school systems across the state rode to school for free, except students in the Baltimore City school system.

Students in Baltimore City were paying 35 cents to ride to school before the 1987-88 school year because the school system received insufficient funds to pay for transportation to school for the children.

But last year, Delegate Larry Young (D-39) pushed to amend a gasoline tax bill to allow $2.5 million of that money to be used to allow Baltimore school children to ride the mass transit buses to school for free.

"I wanted to give city school children the same opportunity given to other students," Young stated.

The money alloted for transportation for school children was previously used for bridge

Black engineers to meet here

Baltimore will be the site of the Black Engineer of the Year awards Feb. 27 at the Baltimore Convention Center. The awards banquet honors outstanding black men and women in the field of engineering and the applied sciences.

Career Communications, Inc., a Baltimore-based business, is the lead coordinator for the event.

Among the recipients are:

Erroll Davis, president of Wisconsin Power and Light in Madison, WI, who was named "Black Engineer of the Year."

Cmdr. Anthony J. Watson, United States Navy in Norfolk, VA and Dr. Christine M. Darden, senior project engineer for NASA/Langley Research Center, Advanced Vehicles Division, in Hampton, VA, received the "Outstanding Achievement in Government Award."

"The Professional Achievement Award" was awarded to Grady C. Wright, business manager for TRW Systems Divisions in McLean, VA and Barbara A. Sanders, director of Advanced Manufacturing Engineering at General Motors in Michigan.

Dr. Donald O. Frazier, a chemical engineer for NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama and Dr. Marc R. Hannah, principal scientist for Silcon Graphics in Mountain View, CA, were awarded the "Techical Contribution Award."

"The Most Promising Engineer Award" was awarded to two scientists — Dr. L. Kerry Mitchell, an aerospace engineer and Robert I. Lee, an engineering manager in Illinois.

Eugene Jackson was awarded the "Entrepreneur Award." He is

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MAKE A WISH! — Two "genies" display their finery at a local Mardi Gras party. See 'Our World' on page 8 for details.

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