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The precious metal has become drug currency

By Helen Glover Cook AFRO Staff Writer

The wealthy have off-shore banking in the Bahamas, the middle-class invest at branches of the local bank, the working poor have their credit unions, leaving gold as the in-fashion investment option for drug dealers with an eye for knowing how to build quick cash reserves.

Unlike stocks, bonds and Tbills ,gold affords its investors an opportunity to wear their money and see it grow around their necks.

No need for middle-men who offer high-priced interpretations of complicated stock exchange rules and regulations, they can invest in a product that they can touch and feel.

Many of the role models/ peer group members wear lots of flashy gold jewelry. They wish to emulate "rap" musicians like LL Cool J, or Salt n' Pepa who are uninvolved with the drug culture fashion statement.

On a recent visit to a metropolitan pawn shop, the AFRO witnessed the following exchange between a young black 22-year-old pawnbroker/jewelry store

Customer: Man I bought this here and I need a little cash. How much can I get for this? (referring to a highinked gold chain popular with

Owner: We can let you borrow up to half of what you paid for it, if you bought it additional 15% per month

(Continued on Page 2A)

Drug culture status symbol



Photo by Ricardo Gray ALL THAT GLITTERS is not gold! Some youths buy large amounts of gold as an investment.

Baltimore couple is killed on German Autobahn

By Helen Glover Cook AFRO Staff Writer

There is no speed limit on the high speed German expressway, the autobahn. Accidents on this highway are

Army Specialist Fourth Class, Vincent Lee Harlee and his wife, Beth had only been i Germany 16 months when their automobile went out o

control on the Autobahn. It happened in Triers, Sunday, July 16, near their home in Wittlich Germany, instantly killing the couple.

Beth and Vincent were Baltimore natives whose parents reside in the city. They attended Baltimore graduated from both Calverton Jr. and Northwestern Sr. High schools. Beth earned a Bachelor of Science degree in

Morgan State University. Vincent also attended Morgan, leaving the school with both a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Business Administration as

Business Administration from

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Beth Harlee

Board upholds keychain expulsion pawnbr

nate will make a decision to drop all charges or

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Section B

Page B7.

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.. Section C

FADING TO BLACK:

Area local black video

retailers are fighting an

uphill battle. Fortunate-

That's probbly what they

said about John Minor's

MUSIC MASTER:

Like fine wine, legen-

dary balladeer and com-

poser Smokey Robinson

remove federal Judge Alcee Hastings from

the bench. What, or who caused this to hap-

But like children, they will find reasons to smile, to

share and to love. Story and pictures on Page B1.

STRIKE UP THE BAND! Orioles GM,

PULPIT AND PEW NEWS AND

VIEWS: Whether it's news about your church, or

favorite pastor, find out the latest news in the pages

the Living Church. Beginning on ... Page D1.

Frank Robinson, to lead AFRO parade. For details

METRO PROFILE

children of Mt. Washing

have had their innocence

never know the joy of

BUSINESS PULSE

THE LIVING CHURCH

FRIDAY PLUS

HALLS OF CARING:

The innocence of the

Pediatric Hospital

tried by fire. Some will

By Delfield S. Yoes, III AFRO Staff Writer

The expulsion of a 10-yearold honor student from Mt. Royal Elementary School has prompted questions about the city school policy automatic expulsion for possession of weapons.

The young man was expelled from Mt. Royal possessing a key chain with a small leather pouch attached to it, encasing a bottle opener, a nail cleaner and a blade less than two inches long.

The key chain discovered on April 13 after another student known for being a trouble-maker at Mt.

Allegedly, the child who was expelled said, "I'll kill you," during a boxing exchange and pulled out the small blade, according to the other boy. There were no

other witnesses to the conflict. The matter has just recenty surfaced after the school board voted to uphold the expulsion. The only board member to vote against the expulsion was Meldon S.

"The problem is that the school system is beset by violence and the system is rying to send messages, but we're sending messages to the wrong per-' says Hollis.

well beyond the interpretation

Hollis is referring to a few cases where young people have been expelled for having (Continued on Page 2A)



participates in Baltimore's attempt to keep the books open continuously for a reading record.

Reading for a record

Guinness Book, that is

By Delfield S. Yoes, III AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. The City That Reads."

Our city has been engaged since 9 A.M. July 1, that will conclude 9 A.M. August 1 in in the Guinness Book of World ness, there is no established world record for reading.

"We are now in the final stretch of the read-a-thon and it's gone very well," says Heather Campbell, one of the coordinators of the activity. According to Campbell, there is now a waiting list to participate in the marathon and

taken place in the City Hall volunteers from organizations

(Continued on Page 2A)

Sheila Dixon-Smith proposes:

A Civilian Review Board with 'teeth!'

By Joy Tyler

AFRO Staff Reporter Scenario of a drug bust Police are watching a house in a city neighborhood for possible drug activity. They finally have enough evidence to warrant a raid on the residence.

The street — anywhere in Baltimore. Officers storm the suspected house, only to find that its the wrong tenant, the wrong house, on the wrong

find that her property has been wrecked, and no one offers a legitimate reason as to why such actions were taken. The scenario, although no

specific victim is mentioned. Who pays for the damage to

her personal property? Surprisingly, the city is not liable to repair or replace the

In their valiant effort to other dangerous crimes under control, Baltimore's police

force has prompted many leery citizens to question some of the methods used in combating this plague upon

Departmental policy on raids consists on notification of a judge to grant such actions before police can act on a specific case. Once this permission is granted, they are then able to take action on the

What is found on the premises of a drug raid deterbring the city's drug war, and mines what is to follow. If the raid produces evidence of illegal paraphernalia, the



Councilwoman Shelia Dixon-Smith

department is not legally held accountable for damages. It's in the case of hitting a

wrong house, or not finding in criminating evidence to support actions taken, where the problem lies. Claims of damage to per-

sonal property must be taken to the City Solicitor to receive (Continued on Page 2A)

Racism charge hits Md. Auto Ins. Fund

AFRO Staff Reporter

By Joy Tyler

After being with the same employer for 16 years, disgruntled Alfred Edward Johnson, Jr. is finally fed up. Maryland's Auto Insurance Fund (MAIF), with being

Commission, which is serving as prosecutor for the plaintiff in the case, is defending Johnson, who was the company's highest-ranking black supervisor ever employed

with MAIF. Johnson, who was serving as a Claims Superintendent II, was removed from his duties November 18, 1986, following a lengthy dispute over charges that accused him of mismanagement and allegations that he showed favoritism towards other minorities and females.

Based on his previous The State Human Relations evaluations from management that his performance was "very good or "outstanding," Johnson was at a standstill as to why his ability to manage was in question.

> Soon after he was presented with an unsubstan-

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