—Task force

Continued from page 1

"We can't deal with a problem like that in a system of this size," Richardson said of the 119,000-student public school system.

But others disagreed, and replied strongly to Richardson's comment.

"We have to deal with it," Nathaniel McFadden, a second district councilman said.

Richardson arrived at the task force meeting armed with a battery of statistics, citing them frequently to bolster his position.

According to Dr. Richardson the Baltimore school system operates with a student-teacher ratio of about 24:1, and had set target class-size maximums at 32 pupils per elementary school classroom and 38 per secondary class for the 1982-83 school year.

But he said his office probably will request a $350 million "stand still" budget for the city's schools next year, a budget level which would make the re-adoption of the present target figures "unrealistic."

"We can talk about class sizes all day, but if we don't have the funding to hire the teachers we can't do anything," Richardson said.

"Unless we get additional dollars they will have to go up," Richardson continued, referring to the school system's class-size targets.

The budget specialist contended the city would have to hire 100 new teachers for every one-pupil decrease in the citywide class-size average.

But others said the school system representatives hac become blinded in a blizzard of their own statistics and had lost sight of the overcrowding problem from a crucial view: that of the students.

Jeffery Mason, a Walbrook High student, said overcrowding is an everyday reality at the Westside school.

I've never been in a class with only 24 students and I don't know of anyone who has," Mason said in response to Richardson.

Mason said he is concerned that overcrowding will hamper learning for him and his schoolmates, and may pose consequences in the future.

"That is the kind of thing we are frustrated about. All they talk about is numbers. I thought the school board and others would like to hear about what a student would have to say," Mason said, as the meeting broke up.

Murphy to be honored at Coppin dinner

Mal Goode, former news corespondent for ABC News will be guest speaker at the Scholarship Fund Benefit Dinner sponsored by the Coppin State College Foundation, Inc.

The affair will be Friday, March 18, (today), at 6:30 p.m. in the Tawes College Center on campus.

The program's theme is "Educate Our Youth - Help Save our NataNation."

Also during the evening, the Coppin Foundation board board will present the first annual Distinguished Citizen's Public Service Award to John H. Murphy III, president of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

Murphy is being cited for the outstanding contributions he has made to the community.

Murphy is a member of numerous organizations including the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Council on Equal Business Opportunities, the National Aquarium, Provident Hospital, the Baltimore School for the Arts and Baltimore City Literacy Commission.

His awards and honors are many - among them are awards from the University of Maryland, the American Society of Journalism School Administrators, the United Negro College Fund, City of Baltimore Citizen Award, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Fisk University.

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Pa. man arrested, police seize pipebombs, cash

Richmond, Va.— Federal Marshals arrested a 48-year-old ennsylvania man ;ate last week on a federal parole violation, and then confiscated two apparent pipebombs, $4,000 in cash, and a white powder like drug he was carrying.

Acting on a tip, Marshals arrested Peter Renda at a motel, and then discovered the cache of narcotics and bombs, Herb Rut erford, Chief Marshal for the Eastern district said.

Rutherford says the drug was field-tested and identified as cocaine. He said it had a value of approimately $30,000.

An employee of the Quality Inn on Willis Road said one of the two bombs found there was later safe y exploded by a bomb disposal unit from Fort Lee.

Renda is expected to face narcotics and explosives charges in addition to the parole violation. Renda's daughter, Judith R nda,20, will be charged with aiding and abetting a parole viol tor, Rutherford said.

Mrs. Helen Maxfield

Funeral services for Helen L. Maxfield were Tuesday, March 8, at the Little Ark Baptist Church. Burial was at King Memorial Park.

A native of Baltimore, Mrs. Maxfield died March 4 at Sinai Hospital. She was born December 5, 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. James Powell. Her education was also received in Baltimore.

Mrs. Maxfield is survived by her husband, Richard; mother, Rose; two sons, Richard Jr. and Mark; six sisters, three brothers and one grandchild.

Nathan Harris

Funeral services for Nathan Harris were Monday, March 14, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Burial was at Loudon Park Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Yvette; his mother, Jessie Espinosa; a sister, Delores Jones; two brothers, William and Leslie.

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CRIME DISPATCH

Man killed while sitting on steps

By Patricia Tatum AFRO Staff Writer

Police still are investigating the Tuesday, March 15, murder of a 38-year-old West Baltimore man, who was shot and killed while sitting on the steps of his home.

Police spokesman Sgt. Mike Bass told the AFRO that Kenneth Warren Finch, of the 1500 block of Fulton Ave., was sitting on his steps talking to a woman neighbor when the shooting occurred.

Finch collasped onto the sidewalk and was pronounced dead at the scene. He had been shot once in the left side of the head near his ear, Bass said.

Police have been unable to establish a motive for the killing and do not have any suspects in the case.

"We sure would love to know who did it, why, and from where the shot came," he said.

The gunshot may have come from a vehicle (traveling along Fulton Ave.) but police have "no real evidence that is where it came from," Bass told the AFRO.

Finch, who was unemployed at the time of his death, formerly was the wardrobe person for a local singing quartet of female impersonators, "Transparent Lady."

Friends of Finch, such as "Peaches," the stage name for a member of the quartet said he had not worked with the group for about a year. But he did live in the same house inhabited by some of the members of the group.

The shooting appeared to shock and mystify Peaches and others, who said Finch was a quiet person, who stayed mostly at home.

"I didn't think anyone could be possibly that evil to kill him like that," Herbert Anderson said.

A native of Baltimore, Finch attended St. Peter Claver School and Merganthelar Vocational Technical High School. He served two years in the U.S. Army after being drafted

Finch's sister said at one time he worked as a maintenance man at the Morningside Apartments.

He is survived by his mother, Loretta Wilson; a sister, Jacqueline Finch; a grandmother, Laura Finch.

Funeral services will be Sunday at 5 p.m. (the wake is at 4:30) at the William March Funeral Home. Burial will be Monday at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery at Crownsville.

Serious crime drops statewide

PIKESVILLE — Incidents of serious crime in Maryland dropped eight percent last year compared to 1981, the first annual decrease in six years, state police statistics released Wednesday showed.

Statistics showed that the statewide drop in serious crime was paced by a 15 percent decline in reported robberies and a 14 percent drop in incidents of breaking and entering.

Police said reported incidents of murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault decreased four percent in the last year.

Spokesman Dan McCarthy added that property crimes — breaking or entering, larceny and motor vehicle theft — dropped nine percent.

"It's difficult to pinpoint one specific reason (for the decrease)," McCarthy said. "But more people being involved in the Neighborhood Watch programs and crime prevention programs have certainly impacted on the problem."

He said the state's stricter parole eligibility requirements has reduced the number of parolees in recent years, helping to reduce crime.

McCarthy said the last yearly decrease was a three percent drop in 1976 compared to 1975.

In the Baltimore Metropolitan area, the reported incidents of serious crime dropped seven percent in 1982 and in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties crime decreased by 11 percent.

Nine convicted on solicitation charges

Nine men, including a 62-year-old retiree, arrested by Hagerstown city police in a crackdown two months ago were found guilty Wednesday of soliciting prostitution.

Eight of the defendants pleaded guilty and were fined $100, placed on 12 months unsupervised probation and granted probation before judgement by District Court Judge James Strine.

The remaining defendant, Malloya Moore, 34, of Hagerstown, was found guilty and fined $200 and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation.

Moore has a previous theft conviction and was uneligible for a probation before judgement sentence.

The men were arrested Jan. 27 in the downtown area in an undercover police operation. During the night, the men approached two women plainclothes officers to solicit prostitution, prosecutor Ford Connor said.

The plainclothes officers would talk to the suspects before awaiting officers arrested them, he said.

The men arrested were Joseph Teach, 39, of Hagerstown, Clifford Hutzell, 62, Boonsboro, Terry Lushbaugh, 38, of Falling Waters, West. Va.; Manfred Brown, 38, Hagerstown, Keith Smith, 23, of Hagerstown, Robert Pike, 19, Hagerstown, Jerry Gossard, 31, of Williamsport, and Richard Burker, 25, of Hagerstown.

Lt. Nelson Dunahugh said the department is trying to determine if the operation has reduced prostitution before taking a next step.

"We're taking a step back and see if it has had any affect on the activity," Dunahugh said.

"With the warm weather, we're going to take a hard look at it."

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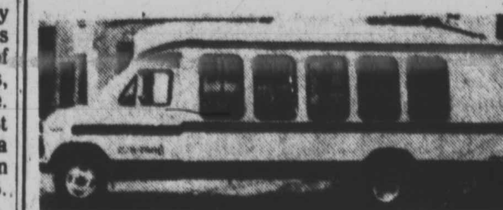

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Kansas official pleads guilty to manslaughter

A county commissioner from Kansas City has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of an elderly Baltimore woman he ran over with his car last July.

Paul Antos, 60, chairman of the Wyandotte County Commission in Kansas, entered the guilty plea Tuesday in exchange for a prosecutor's agreement to drop other charges and his recommendation of a one-year jail sentence.

Antos also is to pay a $1,000 fine and complete a term of community service under the plea arrangement.

Among the charges dropped were homicide by motor vehicle, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and speeding.

Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Robert B. Watts accepted the pleas but delayed sentencing Antos until a presentence investigation is made into his background.

Antos could be sentenced to five years for the automobile manslaughter charge.

The Wyandotte commissioner since 1978 was in Baltimore attending the National Association of Counties when the accident occurred July 11.

The victim, Nina O. McCready, 73, had gotten off a bus and was trying to cross West Lombard St. when she was struck by Antos' car around 10:45 p.m.

A witness told police she saw Antos driving west on Lombard St. moments before the accident and that his car was weaving from lane to lane with its lights off.

The witness, according to a statement of facts drawn up by prosecutors, tried to stop Antos but was run off the side of the road twice.

Antos did not say anything to the judge about the facts in the case. But when asked by his defense attorney if he was pleading guilty "because you are in fact guilty," he replied, "yes, sir."

Girl killed by train

EDGEWOOD - A 14-year-old girl was struck and killed by an Amtrak passenger train in an apparent suicide attempt, state police said.

Police said Melissa C. Putney, of Edgewood, and her cousin were walking near railroad tracks shortly before 12 noon Tuesday when the girl attempted to enter the path of a southbound train.

The cousin, whose name was not released, attempted to restrain Miss Putney. But police said the girl broke loose from the cousin's grasp, knelt down in the middle of the tracks and made the sign of the cross.

The girl, who police said was pregnant at the time of her death, was pronounced dead at the scene.

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"Jamaica Inn," Hitchcock's treatment of Daphne Du Maurier's romantic novel set on England's Cornish coast, with Maureen O'Hara, Emlyn Williams, and Charles Laughton, will be screened at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 21, at the Canton Center, 1030 S. Ellwood Ave.

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