

Inside: Firehouses compete to produce best fire prevention display ... Defense contractor pleads not guilty to fraud

MARYLAND

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Section B

SATURDAY

Froggy fights back: Author will appeal book banning

Kevin O'Malley, author and illustrator of a gangster version of "Froggy Goes A-Courtin'", says he will try to overturn Baltimore County elementary schools' ban of the folk tale. A parent's complaint last spring led to the book's banning, the first in at least 27 years at county schools. [Page 2a]

In Baltimore City

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Kane

Gregory Kane is on vacation. His column resumes Wednesday.

Amprey battery charge dropped

School chief's wife refuses to testify

By KATE SHATSKIN
SUNDAY

Prosecutors yesterday dropped a battery charge against Baltimore schools Superintendent Walter G. Amprey after his wife declined to testify against him in court.

Amprey's wife, Freda Jones Amprey, herself an employee of the school system, charged Aug. 30 that the 51-year-old superintendent had knocked her down and struck her during an argument over money. She also filed for an order of protection against him, which a judge granted, and the couple reached an agreement to stay away from one another and settle their financial obligations.

But yesterday, during a hearing in District Court that took two minutes, Freda Amprey said under oath she was invoking the spousal privilege not to testify against her husband. Assistant State's Attorney Bobbie Daniel-Dickens then dismissed the case.

As he left court, Walter Amprey said he was happy with the result and praised his lawyer, Kenneth W. Ravenel.

Outside in the hallway, Freda Amprey embraced the prosecutor, then walked with her to the court parking lot. (See Amprey, 4a)



A trio of Kewpies: Rick Opler of Opler's Auctioneering in Timonium checks on three original watercolor Hendler Creamery Kewpies by Rose O'Neill.

A colorful collection of Hendler Kewpies

■ Auction: The role-polio babies created in 1915 once had as much recognition in Baltimore advertising as the mustachioed Mr. Boh of National Bohemian beer.

By JACQUES KELLY
SUNDAY

An icon of Baltimore's pop history goes on the block today — a Kewpie eating strawberry ice cream that has emerged as a push on the collectibles market.

After decades in a dark basement, the artwork of a chubby, smiling baby nourished on plateaus of Hendler's ice cream will be sold at a Timonium auction house, where its presence has attracted national collecting interest.

The large lot of memorabilia includes three original Hendler Creamery Kewpies, which helped promote the chocolate, vanilla and strawberry flavors on billboards and newspaper ads in Baltimore from 1915 through the 1960s.

The artwork was painted and signed by Rose O'Neill (1874-1944), an artist who has inspired a cult of collectors. They seek her baby Kewpies in any form, be they printed on postcards, stitched on handkerchiefs, cast as iron dime banks or made into lamp bases. Her work is the focus of a yearly convention called the Kewpie-a-lia.

"I would call them highly unusual because they are in full color, not her black-and-white drawings. There hasn't been a full color, large watercolor set for sale for a number of years now," said Susan Brown Nicholson, a LaGrange, Ill., resident who is an art appraiser and author of "The Encyclopedia of Antique Post Cards" and "The Post Card."

Civil War memorial for journalists mark 100 years

Md. ceremony to honor eclectic monument

By PETER JENSEN
SUNDAY

BURKITTSTOWN — In a tiny clearing on a mountain 15 miles west of Frederick sits the grandest, most recent, strangest and ultimately, most forgotten monument to journalists in the United States.

Cards of Rose O'Neill. There's been talk the original pieces could fetch \$5,000 or more apiece.

The Hendler Kewpie once had as much recognition in Baltimore advertising as the mustachioed Mr. Boh of National Bohemian beer and the curly-haired Koestler's twins, a pair of girls whose faces graced the waxed paper wrappers on bread.

Nearly half the items in today's sale are related to the ice cream industry and the sale of the dessert at drug store soda fountains. The collection was assembled by Albert "Bud" Hendler, a Baltimore ice cream manufacturer whose father founded the firm in 1903. Many of the items include a sunshine yellow and navy blue oval proclaiming "Hendler's Ice Cream — The Velvet Kind," along with the Kewpie eating a plate of strawberry ice cream.



Tasty: Rose O'Neill worked on a commission from Hendler's in the late 1920s.

Hendler's was locally owned until 1929, when its controlling interest was purchased by Borders. The Hendler family remained in charge here until the 1960s, when the brand lost its market share. (See Kewpie, 4a)



Glare at the groundbreaking

In western Howard County, hard hats are the head gear of the day for Glenelg Country School students at a groundbreaking yesterday for a middle school performing arts center. However, Scott Fischer, 5, finds the sunny glare of the nearby hard hats a little too strong to take.

Executive won't fund county arena

Ruppensberger fears competition with city facilities

Stand may kill project

Caggiano remains optimistic about getting financing

By RONNIE GREENE
SUNDAY

His plans for a 10,000-seat sports and entertainment arena on thin ice already, hockey team owner Michael A. Caggiano now faces his biggest hurdle: Baltimore County Executive C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger.

Fearing the proposed County Coliseum in Landdowne-Haithehope would compete with city sports complexes — existing and planned — Ruppensberger yesterday offered no hope of county cash to help backroll Caggiano's dream.

"Why do we want to compete with the city, when the city is our tourism base for the region?" Ruppensberger asked. "We're working together on a regional basis for economic development. We're not here to take away plans from the city."

"People from Baltimore County benefit just as much from Camden Yards, and an expanded convention center and a symphony, as people in the city."

As the top official in a county asked to contribute millions to the proposed coliseum, Ruppensberger's words ring as a potential death knell for the project.

They come four days after Caggiano huddled with a county economic development official to talk about financing options for the \$42 million project.

Caggiano is banking on up to \$20 million in county and state funds. He won't say how much he's requesting from the county, but Ruppensberger said he's been told the total is \$11 million.

"He needs money from the county, and at this point that's not where our priorities are," Ruppensberger said. "But I would encourage him to go forward if he feels he can do it on his own."

Caggiano, a former certified public accountant and minor league baseball club owner, is undaunted. The owner of (See Arena, 20a)

Phonics program begins in city

'Reading Mastery,' a strict scripted plan, offered at six schools

Second of two articles
By JEAN THOMPSON
SUNDAY

When teacher Wynonia Rhoads raises her manicured hand and says, "My turn," eight Baltimore children look up and know that it is time to read.

"Get ready," she says, her red-and-black nails flashing before the third-graders who are learning phonics at Robert W. Coleman Elementary School, near Mondawmin Mall.

They are poised at the start of a lesson in blending letter sounds, and at the launch of a project intended to change the way Baltimore children learn to read.

The Baltimore Curriculum project, backed by the Abell Foundation, has introduced a strict phonics teaching plan to six elementary schools, and eventually may offer it citywide.

Called "Reading Mastery," it is the latest version of a phonics curriculum pioneered nearly 30 years ago for children who are struggling to become readers. It uses methods called direct instruction — the teacher is at center stage, leading drills and call-and-response lessons.

Its adoption here as a five-year experiment marks the influence of a nationwide back-to-basics trend, seen also in Baltimore County and in other schools across the state.

Intended to replace a mixed bag of teaching methods that have not consistently produced readers, this phonics program is completely scripted.

In each of the six schools, teachers are reciting the same definitions and drilling students at a rapid pace punctuated by (See Phonics, 4a)



Coming home: Jane Margaret 'Maggie' O'Brien, 42, will be inaugurated today as president of St. Mary's College.

O'Brien takes helm at St. Mary's today

After 25 years, educator's course brings her home

By MIKE BOWLER
SUNDAY

ST. MARY'S CITY — When Jane Margaret "Maggie" O'Brien graduated from Annapolis High School in 1971, she "didn't find a match for my interests" among Maryland colleges.

She set off on a 25-year voyage through academia. As a student at Vassar College in New York, she was too shy to speak out in her chemistry classes. As a teacher at Middlebury College in Vermont, she wrote thank-you notes for salary raises. As president of Hollins College in Virginia at age 37, she telephoned prospective students from her office, just as

a football coach would recruit freshmen. This afternoon O'Brien, now 42, officially returns to Maryland after the quarter-century sojourn. She will be inaugurated as president of St. Mary's College, a school with small classes, an intimidating atmosphere and a liberal-arts emphasis — perhaps the school O'Brien couldn't find in 1971.

O'Brien, who has been on the southern Maryland campus since midsummer, found herself at a "public" college deliberately fashioning itself as a public-private hybrid. Many of its 1,000 students chose St. Mary's, with a tuition of \$6,950, over such private schools as the Johns Hopkins University, which charges three times as much. "I chose St. Mary's because it has an academic reputation that's as good as Hopkins," said George Bagias, 18, a (See O'Brien, 4a)

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O'Brien to take helm at St. Mary's today

[O'Brien, from Page 1a]

Freshman from Fort Washington in Prince George's County, Lucille Clifton, a poet and author of children's literature who has taught at St. Mary's for six years, said: "There's a feeling on this campus now that everything is possible. I feel that way before Magie came. I feel it under her administration."

The optimism at St. Mary's is rooted in the decision by Edward T. Lewis, O'Brien's predecessor who retired last year, to opt out of the newly forming University of Maryland System in the late 1980s and out of a deal for his school with then-Gov. William Donald Schaefer.

St. Mary's would begin a move toward privatization, receiving unrestricted grants from the state tied to the cost of living. Meanwhile, it would increase tuition and rely more heavily on private fund raising.

The move paid off, partly insulating the campus from the recession of the early 1990s. St. Mary's could go its own way, free of the line-item budgeting torture in the state university system.

"I think the St. Mary's model over time will be adopted elsewhere in the United States," said Steven Muller, Johns Hopkins president emeritus who heads the St. Mary's Board of Trustees.

"St. Mary's is a small place that never wanted to become big and urban," Muller said. "It's always been intimate. Magie O'Brien is the perfect fit for it."

O'Brien, who is married and has two boys enrolled in St. Mary's parochial schools, said she's having "the time of my life—again."

Although O'Brien might find student recruiting easier at St. Mary's, where applications far exceed the number of slots available, she will have to raise money. The school's \$7.5 million endowment is small by private college standards, but O'Brien engineered a successful \$40.8 million capital campaign at Hollins.

Moreover, her predecessor, Lewis, and "90 percent of my peers," O'Brien actually enjoy fund raising. "Fund raising is fun," she said. "If you look at it that way, it's exciting."

A biochemist by training, O'Brien had planned to enter administration. She became a dean at Middlebury College in Vermont, she said, after she wrote letters to her superiors, thanking them for salary raises.

I found out that nobody did that," she said. "Also, I was a woman who didn't talk a lot about feminist causes, though I embraced them. Women in academic administration are hampered by their identification with ideology probably more so than men."

In her first few weeks on campus, O'Brien has pushed the right buttons with staff and students. "She's quite presidential, but she has a fair for the familiar," said Michael Freeman, dean of students.

Meanwhile, though only 43 percent of St. Mary's funding comes from the state, "we will continue to be primarily a state school serving state students," O'Brien said. "At the same time, we'll preserve the liberal arts tradition and work to fulfill [Lewis'] vision of becoming one of the top-ranked liberal arts colleges in the nation."

Judged by some college guidebooks, St. Mary's is already in the top ranks. Its average Scholastic Assessment Test scores, 1,340 for this fall's entering freshmen, are 100 points higher than those at any other state public college.

But some students and faculty are uncomfortable with the ratings race. "We're poised for something wonderful here," said Michael Glaser, the English Department chairman and a 27-year veteran of St. Mary's. "We're on the edge of having a community of learners. How long can we live on our SATs?"

Some students are grumbling about repeated tuition increases. "Hold the line on tuition. Refuse to give up an inch except to match inflation," the student newspaper said in an editorial last week.

But Heather Davis, a 19-year-old junior from Elkton City who is a "student trustee in training"—she will become a voting member of the board next year but is attending meetings this year—said she was a big proponent of the move with keeping St. Mary's diverse, making sure that not everyone is from the upper middle class. None of us wants to make it a public Princeton."

Civil War memorial for journalists to be honored

[Monument, from Page 1a]

ores and prominently quoted a verse of his poetry.

"Some people probably thought he was nuts," said John W. Howard, superintendent of the Antietam and Monocacy national battlefields and the man responsible for the monument, "but I don't understand it myself."

Born in 1841, Townsend was a columnist, novelist, poet, and lecturer who did most of his writing under the pen name John W. Howard. He was the son of a minister and a city mentioned in the Bible's Book of Samuel.

Writing for the New York Herald for much of the Civil War, his work appeared in many of the era's most prominent periodicals including the Chicago Tribune, Washington Star, Philadelphia Inquirer, Cincinnati Enquirer and Harper's Weekly.

"Guts is rampant both in face and abdomen, and wears a fastidiously nose of the genus Wellington or Roman, has a low broad forehead, a big head, a large mouth, and a double chin, and looks as if he knew what to do with a good dinner before letting it spoil," a contemporary once wrote of Townsend.

"He made his reputation as a correspondent during the war, and if there is anything for which in his political writings, Mr. Townsend is particularly famous, it is the absolute accuracy of all his statements."

Townsend discovered his future 105-acre estate near Burkittsville in 1884 when researching a Civil War novel. After buying the land, he built a complex of buildings, only a modest portion of which remain standing.

With financial support from 19th century luminaries such as Thomas A. Edison and Joseph Pulitzer, Townsend commissioned a local architect to design the arch which was dedicated on Oct. 16, 1888.

Historians believe the monument was modeled after Hagia Sophia's triumphal archway. The architectural style is eclectic—a Moorish arch, three Roman arches above it, terra cotta plaques, a zodiac of a Greek god in one recess, and towers with battlements.

The arch was decided by Townsend to the War Department which eventually passed it to the National Park Service. The surrounding estate, originally called "Opland" by Townsend, is now owned and managed by the state as Gathland State Park.

Despite Townsend's grandiose intentions, the memorial never became much of a tourist draw. Park officials estimate that—if you use the back trail hikers along the Appalachian Trail which bisects the property—the arch attracts 30,000 visitors per year. That is less than one-fifth of the visitors to nearby Greenbelt State Park.

"I guess you could call it our best kept secret," said Al Prenton, assistant manager of South Mountain Recreation Area, which includes Gathland. "It's away from the beaten path. There's not a whole lot there."

Three decades ago, state officials and the state's press association considered developing a Newspaper Hall of Fame next to the arch. Amazingly, they wanted



to build a round contemporary structure featuring a gigantic, lighted globe. Meritully, the project was scrapped when no one came up with the \$450,000 cost.

Just Gathland received instead was neglect. Budget cuts forced its shutdown in 1991. It was reopened two years ago only with

the support of Magruder's volunteer organization, Friends of Gathland State Park.

Standing at this tranquil spot overlooking the gently sloping Pleasant Valley, it is hard to imagine the bloodshed that took place here. Crumple was one of the gaps where Union forces engaged Confederate defenders in the Battle of South Mountain, the prelude to the Civil War's bloodiest day at Antietam three days later.

Ironically, Townsend was not at either battle. But he did see his share of action at such places as Bull Run, Five Forks and Chickamauga.

Townsend's writings reveal a man who was concerned about many of the things that reporters confront today: cluttered newsrooms, impossible deadlines, and a secretive and censorious military. But he clearly thought highly of the people who made their living researching and writing about events.

"The hardest work I ever did was to come back to newspaper offices, after large events, weary with hearing and seeing and thinking, and then to produce three or four columns of material, by last gasp light," he once wrote. When they shut down in 1991, it was reopened two years ago only with

City's scripted phonics plan aims for 'Reading Mastery'

[Phonics, from Page 1a]

by hand signals.

"Four turn. Get ready," says Vanessa Merrick, a special education teacher at City Springs Elementary School, near Little Italy. She raises a finger.

"Mmmmm...aaa...nnn," nine children repeat.

"Good job. Say it fast 'Point.' You didn't say 'Get ready.'"

"Excuse me. Get ready." "Point." "Man!" they shout, bouncing in their chairs.

Debate is occurring nationally about the appropriateness of the highly scripted phonics curriculum. Some researchers and teacher groups say it robs instructors of creativity and the chance to use their professional judgment.

A well-informed professional making decisions is far more powerful than anything I can script," says John Pikulski, president-elect of the International Reading Association, which promotes research on reading. He is not a fan, but he acknowledges that for some students, script-bound phonics can work.

Advocates say that direct instruction techniques belong in a teacher's toolbox. Teachers with advanced or low skills can succeed using the scripted lessons, some Baltimore principals assert.

Some teachers using the new curriculum insist they do not feel like clones.

"I am going to shine through," says Rhock, a 34-year veteran teacher who also is an actress. Flannery, who snaps a scapular

"Some parents said in the beginning that it was boring. ... Then all of the sudden, 'Kazaaa!' I'm reading words that I didn't know before." Now they understand that the parts add up."

Wynonia Rhock, teacher at Robert W. Coleman Elementary.

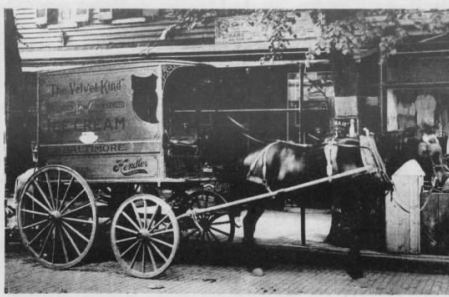
shaped toy like a canteen to keep children reading in rhythm. Other teachers call the constant repetition "nervous-wrecking but necessary" and "boring but important"—and some are battling boresness. They also believe their students are making progress.

"Some parents said in the beginning that it was boring, that going over all these words and sounds seemed so basic for their children," Rhock says. "Then all of the sudden, 'Kazaaa!' I'm reading words that I didn't know before."

Now they understand that the parts add up."

Principals and teachers are not held back by phonics enmeshment. Students are grouped first by testing, then by their progress on the lessons. For example, at City Springs, one third-grader is sitting with fifth-graders.

The proof for many parents will be student achievement. At year-end, Coleman Elementary, where the curriculum has been in



Ice cream cart: This 1905 photo shows the horse-drawn Hender wagon.

Kewpies in the spotlight

[Kewpie, from Page 1a]

The center of interest are three original watercolors that O'Neill did on a commission from Hender's in the late 1920s. These works, which sat for more than three decades in Hender's basement, are considered cherished examples of one of this country's most prolific and published female artists.

O'Neill first "created her roly-poly baby with tiny wings, tufts of light brown hair and apple-dumpling cheeks about 1915. The Kewpie appeared at a feature along with O'Neill's verses, in popular magazines of the day—the Women's Home Companion, the Delinquent and Good Housekeeping. O'Neill had a good business mind and soon began to sell the character she had named "Kewpie," possibly after a nephew.

By the 1920s the artist had licensed Kewpie dolls to be manufactured in Germany. There were also Kewpie handkerchiefs, talcum powder dispensers, jewelry, banks, lamp bases and hundreds of post cards. O'Neill also illustrated for Jell-O.

"She was very, very successful financially," said Pat O'Neill, the wife of the artist's cousin who lives in Springfield, Mo. "My husband is on his way to the side now."

There are Rose O'Neill memorials at home and at the artist's room at Bonaventure, the artist's home and burial spot north of Branson, Mo. The home is now preserved as a County historical site.

But it was in New York that Rose O'Neill was best known. "She was quite famous in Greenwich Village, and her apartment was always full of people," said Nicholson O'Neill, school.

"She had an open heart and an open table. Her guests stayed for weeks. At one point her sister and she got so tired of it all they left for Europe and stayed two years. When they got back to Greenwich Village, the same people were in

the apartment."

O'Neill also created other characters. Scootles and Ho-Ho, that appeared in children's books. Her influence on the period around and after World War I was considerable, Nicholson said.

She certainly had an influence on Grace Albert Benet of Ruxton, Benet has been "Kewpie" all her life.

When I was born my parents lived in an apartment at 2815 N. Charles St., she said. "I lived a brick building across the street. On top was a big painted sign of a quart of ice cream and the Hender's Kewpie. My mother and father looked at me—I had a little lock of hair, brown eyes and a great big smile. They said, 'We'll call her Grace when she gets old.' Well, I grew up and people still call me Kewpie."

The Hender family itself has been well known in Baltimore for its collecting tastes.

The Henders were very eclectic in what they collected," said auctioneer Richard Opler, who will be conducting today's sale in the 1900 block of Greenpark Drive.

Many years ago Bud and Winnie (the late wife of Albert Hender) invited me to their home once and I saw large groups of his collection. Opler said. "I remember lead soldiers, cast iron toys and rare autographs. I don't remember Kewpies."

Family members confirm that the Kewpies didn't get much attention at home.

The signs were just sitting around in the basement of my father's house for more than 30 years. I didn't know the story of Rose O'Neill," said Nelson Hender, Albert Hender's son and a Baltimore County physician.

When his father retired in 1965, Nelson Hender helped move many of the items going into today's auction from the 1106 E. Baltimore St. residence to the family home in Baltimore County.

Included in the sale are dozens of other Kewpies, most of them printed materials the Hender firm used to promote its flavors in drug store soda fountain windows and beside grocery dairy cases, where the ice cream was sold in prepackaged pints and quarts. There are also 19th Century apothecary jars and related artifacts from the Hender home.

"The auction in the highest and best use for all this. There is only so much you can keep in your own basement. Various family members look what they wanted. I have a neon sign on my third floor," Nelson Hender said.

He and other family members decided to liquidate the collection through a private sale. This collection, as well as several other collections amassed by the Henders, were purchased by Ruxton antique dealers Robert and Carol Sullivan, who decided to conduct the auction.

Battery charge against Amprey is dropped

[Amprey, from Page 1a]

Earlier in the day, Freda Amprey declined to comment on the case. But "I will say this," she said. "God is forgiving of us when we do wrong, and that should be forgiving of each other. If we want to be forgiven, then we have to be forgiving."

Under Maryland law, husbands and wives may invoke the privilege to stay silent against a spouse only once in such a case. Freda Amprey said she would not testify if she could be required to testify if another incident occurred.

Baltimore State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy said the Amprey domestic violence case was handled just like any other.

"We can't do much, unless we have independent evidence, without the spouse's testimony," Jessamy said. "It's her choice as a victim. She has been the party we have consulted with throughout this incident."

When police responded to the Amprey Southwest Baltimore home Aug. 24, they did not notice any visible injuries to Freda Amprey, police spokesman Sam Ringgold said. The officer said in a police report that he could not detect any signs of alcohol affecting Walter Amprey, who appeared calm, though Freda Amprey reported later that her husband had been drinking. Several days later, she went to the Southwestern District police station, where bruises on her leg that she said she had suffered in the altercation were photographed.

Ravenel said he was confident that Amprey would have been acquitted had the case gone to trial.

"He's obviously happy that the right thing's being done," Ravenel said. "We hope there's no damage to his reputation. He's not happy he was charged with a crime, but he's more concerned about putting this behind him."

Amprey's official lawyer in the case, Paul Marie Sandler, said when the charge was filed that Amprey demands a public trial and that he had decided some time before the incident to leave their marriage.

Freda Amprey, 47, heads the school system's Employee Assistance and Wellness Program, where she makes \$65,000 a year. Part of the agreement in civil court with her husband is that he will not visit her at her workplace this year.

Schools spokeswoman Catherine Foster would not comment yesterday on whether Freda Amprey would remain in her job, saying it would be inappropriate to speak about a "personal matter."

Hand signals: Kathy Bendrup gives finger snaps in her City Springs Elementary School class to signal for responses from her fourth- and fifth-graders in the Baltimore Curriculum Project's phonics program.

use since August, Nichelle Dorsey placed recently to frame her first-quarter report card.

"To bring him from where he is now, this challenge is my philosophy. He struggled before. Now he loves to read. His writing is legible. I approve of the change 100 percent."

Principals and teachers also note some unexpected effects. Students formerly labeled learning disabled are beginning to recognize letters and words, says Bernice Wheelock, principal at City Springs. Forty-four of her 330 students are in special education. She is wondering now whether some have been improperly designated.

At several schools, principals also note, behavior problems have waned as teacher skills have im-