

WEDNESDAY
April 30, 1986 — Page 33

Child-abuse laws signed

Hughes vetoes slot machine bill

"While gambling is in some degree a part of modern society, it is still a practice which has the potential for abuse, corruption and great personal distress."

— Gov. Harry Hughes

Gov. Harry Hughes yesterday vetoed a slot-machine bill sought by Eastern Shore fraternal clubs, warning it could lead to the gambling machines in other areas of the state.

Hughes, who also vetoed the slot-machine measure last year, signed into law 172 other bills passed by the 1986 General Assembly.

The bill would have allowed non-profit fraternal, religious and veterans' organizations in all Eastern Shore counties except Worcester to raise money for their clubs and for charitable activities.

Hughes had already said that he would veto the slot machine bill, but his decision to do it yesterday came as a surprise.

The governor traditionally waits

until the final bill signing ceremony, which won't come until May 27 this year, to announce his vetoes.

Hughes said one of his reasons for not signing the slot machine bill was that it would be difficult to enforce.

"While gambling is in some degree a part of modern society, it is still a practice which has the potential for abuse, corruption and great personal distress," he said.

The bill had strong support from officers of clubs on the Eastern Shore, who testified at legislative hearings that they needed slot machines to help raise funds for their charitable activities.

"I am confident fraternal and non-profit groups will be able to raise

funds through more traditional approaches," the governor said.

Among the measures enacted was a bill sponsored by Del. John C. Astle, D-Annapolis, giving state police the power to close down roads for foot races.

The bill was filed at the request of state police officials, Astle said. Without it, the future of events such as the Annapolis 10-mile run was in jeopardy, he said.

The governor also signed several bills sponsored by the county House delegation, including measures to:

- Give officials of chartered counties and Baltimore City the power to reinvest unexpected bond proceeds in other bonds issued by state or

local governments;

- Exempt the county from requiring reimbursement from the federal government for responding to fires or other emergencies on federal property; and,

- Allow the county director of administration to check for criminal histories for prospective employees.

Among the other bills signed by Hughes were measures to improve child-care programs, strengthen child-abuse laws and increase state aid to public schools by \$14.7 million next year.

One of the bills dealing with youth that got Hughes' approval will require criminal background checks for teachers, day-care workers and

other people who deal with children as part of their jobs. It will not apply to employees already hired before the bill takes effect.

The package of youth bills also included measures to:

- Impose licensing sanctions against professionals such as doctors, teachers and nurses who do not report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect;

- Remove the obscenity requirement for child pornography cases;

- Set up programs to try to reduce the high rate of teen-age pregnancy and provide services for young mothers; and

- Create a Task Force on Youth Suicide.



It's your loss, Brooke Shields

By ERIC SMITH

There I was, sitting in the seventh row of the auditorium at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts while visions of my future life as a big movie star passed before my eyes.

First I would perform my upcoming role in the "Red Stocking Follies," Maryland Hall's fund-raising extravaganza, so magnificently that Hollywood talent scouts would be sure to hear about me.

"Another Dustin Hoffman" they'd call me (although I'd rather look like "another Clint Eastwood"), and my skyrocketing career would be launched. I pictured myself being flown to Los Angeles and put up at the posh Beverly Hills Hilton until a suitable script was found for my special cinematic charisma.

Then, after my first film became a blockbuster (perhaps a remake of "Gone With the Wind" with guess who playing who know who), the wild parties, the debauchery and the globe-trotting would begin.

I'd turn down dates with a desperate Meryl Streep and go to world premieres with a grateful Brooke Shields. Burt Lancaster would beg me for acting lessons. Steven Spielberg would offer me a million dollars for a cameo appearance in his latest epic, "Columnists of the Lost Ark."

But after my mantelpiece became cluttered with Academy Award statuettes, the inevitable corruption would set in: the booze, the ready starlets, the pills to keep myself going.

Then I would fritter away my talent on a string of box-office flops. In a few years I'd end up lonely, fat and forgotten, doing regional real estate commercials on TV just to stay alive . . .

I snapped out of this depressing reverie in time to see the director, Jim Horne, as he walked in to catch some auditions for the show. This was the night that hopeful nobodies like me were supposed to sign up for the amateur singing, dancing and comedy numbers scheduled for the Red Stocking Follies on the second weekend in May.

Money raised from ticket sales will be used to match a \$100,000 grant to Maryland Hall from the state, but I was there that evening only to raise some support for my own stage and screen career. I was positive the director would take one look at me and declare that he had never encountered such natural superstar material before.

But he passed right by me as he headed for the stage to have his picture taken with Miss Annapolis. She was there for the follies, too, and I realized I wouldn't have much of a chance competing for Jim Horne's attention against Miss Annapolis' jeweled tiara and fantastic legs. So I skulked in my seat while several men and women of various ages strutted their stuff in the limelight. One or two of the tyro performers were ghastly, but quite a few showed a flair for show biz. The director smiled a lot, like he was actually enjoying himself.

It finally dawned on me that this wasn't going to be as easy as I thought. I sing like a bullfrog. I dance with the grace of an ocean liner and I have zero experience with acting and stand-up comedy.

It also became obvious that the Red Stocking Follies is going to be a major social event for the Annapolis area. Scores of people from all segments of the community are getting involved, and hundreds more will be attending the shows.

What if I embarrass myself in front of everybody? I began to envision my humiliating stage debut where, crimson-faced and stumbling, I committed some horrible gaffe that I would never live down.

At that moment the director stroled over. We talked. He looked me up and down with an amused gleam in his eye and said "Well, I guess we can find some little walk-on part for you. Contact me next week."

So much for superstardom. But I don't mind, really. Hollywood would probably destroy me, and the Red Stocking Follies already has plenty of real stars.

And besides, Brooke Shields is too tall for me.



KAREN AND JOE Gooding have a new son, Justin, who came into the world with a little help from 2-year-old Darrin, center.

SPECIAL DELIVERY
Toddler helps in baby brother's birthBy LORRAINE AHEARN
Staff Writer

When Karen Gooding's baby was born a week ahead of schedule, there was only one person around to help with the emergency delivery: her 2-year-old son Darrin.

"I really didn't have any warning. It was pretty lucky that he was there," said 23-year-old Mrs. Gooding of Whispering Woods in Arnold.

Last week on Monday morning, Mrs. Gooding, who was due to give birth late this week, called her husband Joe at work in Prince George's County to say that she "felt funny" and that maybe he should come home.

But moments later she began having contractions and went into labor so quickly she could not get back to the phone to call an ambulance.

Meanwhile young Darrin had been napping and came downstairs, awakened by his mother's cries.

"He said, 'Mama angry?' I said, 'No, Mama's gonna have a baby now,'" Mrs. Gooding said.

The mother told the boy to go upstairs and call the operator, but

"He said, 'Mama angry?' I said, 'No, Mama's gonna have a baby now,'" — Karen Gooding

once he had done that and told the operator "Mommy's sick," the child was unable to explain where they lived. Just then Mrs. Gooding realized it was too late.

The mother said that at first she felt helpless and started to panic but then told herself out loud, "You've done this before, now just have the baby." She said she was glad Darrin was there, but did not expect him to be so alert.

"He really surprised me, he followed orders exactly. I didn't have to say anything twice," she said of her son. "I was extremely proud."

So that the upstairs phone would not be left off the hook, she told Darrin to hang up the phone and come downstairs. He brought her a

pillow and patted her arm as she gave birth.

"He said, 'Baby out now?' and he kind of giggled," recalled Mrs. Gooding, who said Darrin never appeared frightened or upset.

The child was able to bring her the kitchen wall phone and she called her husband. After paramedics and a neighbor were contacted, the husband left for home.

"From Forestville to here seemed like an eternity," said Joe Gooding.

Before the father left work, however, he asked his wife if the baby was a boy or a girl.

"I said wait a minute! The baby was born 15 minutes ago and I haven't even checked to see what it is," Mrs. Gooding remembered.

The baby, Justin, is a healthy "absolutely perfect" 8-pound, 5-ounce baby boy. He and his mother were taken to Anne Arundel General Hospital and stayed the usual three days. The couple is grateful that everything turned out well, but would not want to go through it again.

"I wouldn't recommend it for anyone else," Karen Gooding said.

Severn's guardians mark 75th year

By LORRAINE AHEARN
Staff Writer

As he surveyed the gallery of framed government proclamations saluting the Severn River Association's 75th year, past President George Brown wondered aloud where the organization would hang them.

The nation's oldest conservation group "lives in a post office box" to this day. But the turnout at last night's commemorative celebration at the Naval Officers' and Faculty Club was testimony to the growth in membership and political clout the association has achieved since 1911, when it began with 22 members.

"It's a lot easier for us nowadays — we're sort of riding the crest of the environmental movement," said Dr. Clifford Andrew, president of the 330-member organization.

"They were out front long before it was popular to do what we're doing." Attempting to preserve the "dignity" of

the 13-mile estuary, the association has over the years become more involved in advising the county and state on decisions affecting the river.

River historian Orlando Ridout IV reminded the members that issues like preservation "are political animals."

"The only way you can protect a resource is through the political process," said Ridout, a former state delegate. "People who refuse to realize this get run over by the bulldozer."

Two of the group's major accomplishments have been convincing the state to declare the Severn a scenic river and to acquire 1,300 acres surrounding the headwaters. But the effort to control development on or near the shoreline continues on a case-by-case basis.

The association has had mixed results in the past year, defeating the large Martha's Cove Marina proposal but losing out on the Milander tract, which Andrew

called "a very fragile, pristine piece of land going down to development."

Another disappointment was the "Green Bank project," which was unable to muster the needed 20 property owners to plant grass along the shore to control sediment.

The SRA set up a program to monitor water quality and try to pinpoint the origins of coliform bacteria traces, an indicator of sewage dumping. With the river long ago stripped of its aquatic plants and yellow perch, Ridout spoke wistfully of the environmental concerns the SRA had in 1911.

"I hope we can again be worrying about commercial netting of rockfish in the Severn," said Ridout, whose family moved to St. Margaret's in 1783.

"Each year I wonder if we're going to be able to make that goal. The shoreline has changed drastically."

Ridout said "conflicting interests" — specifically "the ever-present developers"

Sex abuse by coach alleged

By DAN CASEY
Staff Writer

A substitute teacher and wrestling coach at Severna Park High School was arrested this morning for allegedly fondling a 16-year-old female student last December, county police said.

Bruce Lee Bagley, 33, of 126 South Carolina Road in Stevensville, was charged with one count of sexual child abuse and one count of sexual contact with a minor, said Sgt. William Wild, head of the child-abuse squad.

Bagley, who has coached the wrestling team at Severna Park for four years, allegedly fondled the student following a wrestling match last December, Wild said.

At least two other female students are involved in the investigation, but any other charges are pending action by a county grand jury, Wild said.

The charges stem from a single incident that allegedly happened as Bagley drove the girl to a friend's house about 6:30 p.m. following a match.

Bagley stopped his truck down the street from the student's destination and allegedly placed his hands inside her shirt and slacks, police said. The alleged incident lasted five to 10 minutes, said Detective Harry Neisser, who is investigating the case.

Wild said the alleged fondling occurred on Owens Way, just a few blocks from Severna Park High School.

Bagley told the student not to tell anyone of the incident, Neisser said.

The 16-year-old student reported the incident to school authorities last week after she heard rumors that similar incidents involving other female students had occurred, police said.

"She reported it to the school and they promptly called the Department of Social Services and us," Wild said.

After she reported the incident, county detectives interviewed the girl and several other female students, all of whom are involved in athletic activities at the school, Wild said.

Besides coaching the wrestling team, Bagley has worked as a substitute teacher and is presently studying to become a teacher, police said.

Severna Park High School Principal Oliver Wittig this morning refused to comment on whether Bagley will remain a substitute teacher at the school.

"In personnel matters, it is not a matter for public discussion," Wittig said.

School officials explained that coaches are offered a yearly contract and since wrestling season is over, his contract will be reviewed next year.

"I'm sure we'll take a very close look at the contract when it comes up," said Jean Boyd, assistant physical education coordinator for county schools.

School coaches are hired by individual principals after records and transcripts have been reviewed by the school system personnel office.

(Staff Writer Jacqueline Tencza also contributed to this story.)