





The Sun/George H. Cook

## Solitary sprint

As the sun poked its way through the skyline of the Key highway shipyard yesterday morning, a runner pounded the Inner Harbor pavement in solitude. At 6 a.m., the sky was gray and

it stayed that way for most of the day. Baltimore residents can expect more of the same today, along with showers and temperatures ranging between 32 and 44 degrees.

# Aberdeen seeks tougher sentencing laws to combat prostitution

**PROSTITUTION, from B1** been working on the commissioners' request for tougher sentencing, says she will ask for tougher penalties.

Underlying the town's push for stronger sentencing is the fact that prostitution is more prevalent here than elsewhere in Harford county.

During 1981, 33 prostitution arrests were made countywide, at least 26 of them in Aberdeen. State Police statistics show. In 1982, Aberdeen police records show more than 35 such arrests in the town, countywide statistics have not been compiled.

Activity by prostitutes on The Strip is so obvious in the summer-time, town officials say, that the courts are known to drive to the area just to watch.

"During a summer night there are 20 to 25 prostitutes, some from nearby states and Baltimore, walking The Strip," says Aberdeen Police Chief Lemuel E. Porter, Jr. He estimated that four or five times that many spectators may be watching.

"For a small town, 150 people—including spectators and customers and prostitutes—walking around and watching, that's a lot," the chief said.

Joseph I. Cassilly, the Harford county state's attorney, expresses concern that customers of "legitimate businesses" along The Strip are annoyed by prostitutes trying to solicit customers.

"The sheer gal they have," Mr. Cassilly said. "They are out there flagging people down. They know the GIs and they flag the customers down."

Richard Smith, manager of a Gino's restaurant on The Strip, said last week that "I think I've lost a lot of family trade" because of the activity.

He also says he believes that the

town's push to stop prostitution, which has included new foot patrols in the area by police, has improved the situation. Several other businessmen in the area agree.

"But it's in the back of my mind," Mr. Smith adds. "I'm worried about the summer."

"It's a problem; it's going to take a lot of patience," says George Engleson, owner of the New Ideal Diner and an incorporator of a civic group aimed at improving the town's "moral climate."

"In the wintertime, people say, 'Boy, it's better,' but in the warm weather, you see them [prostitutes] coming out of the woodwork," he said.

Prostitution once was concentrated elsewhere in town, on West Belknap avenue. It moved after a movie theater that showed X-rated films was demolished to make way for a bank and after a fire destroyed a newsstand that had an adult book section.

A combination of factors attracts prostitution to Aberdeen. Foremost is the Army base with its 6,000 soldiers, an attraction for such activity the world over. The nearby interstate and U.S. 40 provide fast travel from the Baltimore, Philadelphia and Wilmington areas.

Mr. Cassilly claims that Susan's Go-Go, the nightclub that features nude dancers, "acts as a magnet" in drawing men who are possible clients for prostitutes to The Strip.

"It's a belief also held—but rarely said for attribution—by others in the town.

It's also a belief that Susan Avery, an owner of the six-year-old club and nightly performer in it, pointedly denies. She even sued the town commissioners for slander in 1981 because of allegations that her business attracted undesirable individuals. She



The Sun/Bill J. Mahaschuk

**"The judges are not doing enough to put [prostitutes] away. If they gave them the maximum, they would not be coming back."**

— Jerry A. Nolen

**"You can't point a finger at me . . . not a single [prostitution arrest] was on my place."**

— Susan Avery, Susan's Go-Go owner

withdrew the suit before it was argued in court.

"You can't point a finger at me," she said last week, asserting that "not a single one" of the prostitution arrests in Aberdeen last year "was on my place."

While Mr. Cassilly acknowledges that he will be literally true, he sticks to his assertion, drawing on knowledge gained during more than five years as an assistant state's attorney who prosecuted some prostitution cases and knows about others.

Ms. Avery, on the other hand, challenges any of the town commissioners "to come in unannounced and point out a convicted prostitute." She adds that if she recognizes women in her club who have been convicted of prostitution, she makes them leave.

Another factor in The Strip's being an attraction for prostitution, Police Chief Porter said, is "you have a motel accessible to them."

The Hendrix Motel at U.S. 40 and Warren street is at The Strip's south end. Its owners acknowledge that some people in the town believe it

plays a role in prostitution on The Strip.

Although one of those owners was charged in November with violating a town ordinance requiring registration slips to show the names of all guests using a room in what police claim is a prostitution-related case, the motel does not have an extensive record of such charges.

Police say a woman charged with prostitution lived in a room registered only to a man for two weeks. The case is scheduled for court March 9.

Co-owner Joyce Duvivant contends that this type of thing occurs at other hotels and motels and that it is one of the pitfalls of the lodging business.

Mrs. Duvivant said that as long as people registering there show the identification required by town ordinance, "you can't ask them if they are using it for prostitution."

Noting that "our motel is the closest one" to The Strip, she asked, "Unless they give you a problem or a disturbance, how are you not going to rent to them?"

# Heen Stegman dies; taught in city schools

Helen M. Stegman, who was a teacher, principal and administrator in the Baltimore public school system for nearly 50 years, died Friday after suffering a stroke at her residence in Homewood. She was 95.

Services for Miss Stegman will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow at the First English Lutheran Church, Charles and 39th streets. She was superintendent of Sunday school classes there for more than 60 years.

Born in Baltimore, she graduated from Western High School and then received a bachelor's degree from the Johns Hopkins University. Miss Stegman began her teaching career in 1907.

From that year to 1928 she served at the city's first elementary school. She was a teacher and vice principal at School No. 1—the Edgar Allan Poe Elementary School, formerly located at Fayette and Greene streets.

She recalled in 1956, at the time of her retirement, that during the early years of her career she had taught

classes which largely comprised immigrant children and first-generation Americans.

"The parents of one of my Chinese students sent him back home to pick out a wife the year after I had taught him," she said.

From 1926 to 1930 Miss Stegman was supervisor of mathematics for junior high schools and high schools. She served as the principal of the Edgar Allan Poe Elementary School for one year.

At the close of the 1931 school year Miss Stegman was named administrative assistant to the city school superintendent, a position she held for the next 25 years.

Miss Stegman was chairman of a school campaign during World War II which raised large sums in savings bonds and stamps in support of the war effort. She also served as director of the youth division of the American Red Cross.

She was vice chairman of the Junior Red Cross for three years after her retirement.

## Catonsville registration

Catonsville Community College will hold late registration for the spring semester from 1 to 7 p.m. January 24 through 27 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. January 28 in the Student Services Building, 800 South Roland.

Further information may be obtained by calling 455-4555.

She was a former member of the Roland Park Women's Club, the Johns Hopkins University Club and the Sherwood Forest Club.

Miss Stegman is survived by nieces and nephews. They have suggested that memorial contributions be made to the First English Lutheran Church, Charles and 39th streets.

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# Sewage project priorities focus of Shore meeting

**By Mary Cordry**  
Eastern Shore Bureau of The Sun

Salisbury—Why is a \$100 million shop and maintenance building for Baltimore's Back River sewage plant ahead of about 20 small Eastern Shore wastewater treatment systems on the state's priority list for limited federal construction money?

The \$10 million allotted to the single Back River project "would take care of every project on the Shore," Harold M. Miller, Jr., a Cambridge engineer, suggested to Earl Quance, who heads the construction grants and permits program for the state's Environmental Health Administration.

The question came up at a three-state conference here last week on innovative methods of wastewater treatment that might be used by small, rural communities on the Delmarva Peninsula.

It is a subject that has attracted interest here recently in the face of steady growth in some parts of the peninsula, the growing need for community sewer systems and the Rea-

gion administration's pending cutback of the federal share in sewer projects from 75 percent to 55 percent starting October 1, 1984.

Mr. Quance told Mr. Miller that the state's recently released list of priorities for wastewater treatment is based on a point system in five categories and takes into account the population served by a plant as well as improved water quality.

A new priority system being developed "would not allow the ancillary buildings [such as at Back River] at the top," he said. He could not, however, say where proposed treatment plants along Shore rivers flowing into Chesapeake Bay would rank on the new list.

The current state priority list will stand through the fiscal year ending September 30. Projects below the cutoff line will move up the list if the state determines that a priority project is "not proceeding in a timely manner," Mr. Quance said.

The priority list is based on \$70.5 million now available in basic federal funds. On the list of big projects, 12 are given priority out of 44 that are

eligible. Of the projects classified as small, only 6 are listed for financing out of 71 listed eligible.

Of the 12 large-scale projects listed are for Baltimore City. The others include improved sewage-treatment plants at Elkton, Frederick and Salisbury, and an innovative sludge-composting facility in Montgomery county.

Ranking 23d, well below the cutoff line for 1983, is financing for a \$5.8 million sewage-collection system for West Ocean City that has been approved in principle and revised for about 10 years.

Norman R. Connell, the Worcester county sanitary district engineer, said last week that the West Ocean City project cannot proceed until a new environmental impact statement is completed, but he has been assured by officials of the state and the federal Environmental Protection Agency that it will be approved in time for the full 75 percent federal financing.

An EPA spokesman said Friday that "there is still a chance for state revisions of the priority list which will include West Ocean City."

Also left out of the 1983 list of big-scale projects are expansions and improvements for Easton, Crisfield and Cambridge.

Left off the priority list of small projects are proposed and eligible projects for about 20 small Shore towns—places such as Deal Island and Marion in Somerset county; Goldsboro, Ridgely, Federalsburg, Bethlehem and Preston in Caroline county; Royak Oak in Talbot; and Chestertown and Fairlee in Kent.

The conference on alternative wastewater treatment, sponsored here last week by the Delmarva Advisory Council, tackled the problem of wastewater treatment and pollution control from a direction other than dwindling federal help.

Participants, who included engineers and local and state sanitary officials, talked about innovative systems now being developed that can be used more economically than conventional systems in small, rural communities.