

THE RECALLS

Ibrahim's obedience

Lamb sacrifice recalls sparing of prophet's son

By DILSHAD D. HUSAIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bullock's Country Meats in Westminster is usually a place people go to buy T-bones and sirloins. Yesterday, Abdoulaye Mbaye and his family came up from Baltimore to celebrate the Islamic holiday of Eid-ul-Adha by buying two lambs.

Though it was overcast and drizzling, the mood was jovial at the animal pens behind the Bullock's store as the Mbeyes picked out the lambs, which would be sacrificed to commemorate the obedience of the prophet Ibrahim to Allah.

Ibrahim — known as Abraham in the Judeo-Christian tradition — had obeyed God's order and was preparing to sacrifice his son Ismail — Isaac — when God said that a ram should be sacrificed instead. All over the world yesterday, Muslims sacrificed lambs, goats and cows to remember that crucial event shared by these three religions.

The Mbeyes were among several dozen area Muslims who came to Westminster to perform this duty. An estimated 5,000 Muslims live in the Baltimore region.

Mbaye's wife gazed through the fence slats and sized up the lambs, deciding on two plump ones. His young son and daughter preferred looking for baby lambs, pointing them out to their parents when they found one.

When their turn came, Mbaye left his family and went inside the slaughterhouse to per- [See Islam, 5B]

Seen from a distance, the little building pokes through the woods along Northern Parkway like a child's backyard playhouse.

Once they get closer, visitors will discover it also has a serious side.

Along one wall of the main room is a bank of computer terminals linked to the Internet. The opposing wall is lined with child-size sinks for cleaning up after messy experiments. The floor bears the imprint of a logarithmic

scale. Children of middle, high and elementary school age to science and technology.

Deceptively simple, with a pitched roof and glass walls on three sides, the building contains an aquarium, a greenhouse window, living space for classroom animals and a deck for outdoor lessons.

To Peggy Bessent, the lower school director, it is a symbol of Bryn Mawr's commitment to encouraging girls to em- [See Bryn Mawr, 6B]



Falcon will be a dad for 14th time

Beauregard attracts his fifth mate to nest at downtown building

By FRANK D. ROYLANCE
SUN STAFF

Defying both bad luck and high-rise renovations, Beauregard is on the job again this spring.

The male peregrine falcon is sharing the incubation of the 14th clutch of eggs he's fathered on a windy ledge of the USF&G Corp. building in

downtown Baltimore.

"We anticipate hatching sometime in the next two weeks," said John Barber, vice president of Falcon Asset Management, a USF&G subsidiary. He is also a former Smithsonian ornithologist.

Beauregard has outlasted four mates — two in the past year. Each time, his lusty cries have quickly drawn a female to his 33rd-floor aerie.

His latest mate is a banded, but still unidentified falcon that arrived during the winter, soon after her predecessor, Tara, was hospital-

ized at the Baltimore Zoo with a broken leg. The newcomer laid four eggs.

Beauregard's 'knack' for replacing lost mates is very encouraging, Barber said. "There is no stronger sign of a healthy population than to have what's called a floating population of birds flying around looking for suitable nest sites."

The species had been decimated by pesticides, which fatally thinned its eggshells. It was wiped out east of the Mississippi by 1965. A ban on DDT and efforts by the Peregrine Fund to restore the species to the region have slowly brought it back.

In all, 57 young peregrines — 31 males and 26 females — have fledged successfully from the USF&G ledge. They have been found nesting from Albany, N.Y., to Ohio and Virginia.

Two birds born to the same Baltimore parents in different years have been rearing young from Virginia's James River Bridge since 1994. Craig A. Koppie, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Bay field office in Annapolis, said the pair's offspring have been healthy, despite the inbreeding.

At least nine pairs of peregrines are breeding in Maryland, Koppie said.

In all, [See Falcons, 4B]



ANDRE F. CHUNG: SUN STAFF

Home, sweet home: Beauregard the falcon has lived on the ledge of the 33rd floor of the USF&G Corp. building for 14 years.

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