THE STATE OF THINGS

Under the Tree, Darkly

By Don and Val Hymes

The way things are going this year, we may think twice before opening the packages under the Maryland Christmas tree — even if we can find it in the dark.

Every December we looked forward to what Santa Claus would bring us. Back in December of 1971, we wrote that the biggest present under the tree would be revenue sharing, the great panacea for all our problems. How naive.

That crisis seems ancient history by now. And when revenue sharing came to our rescue, the cheer were short lived because dozens of other state and local grant programs were cut simultaneously.

The roar of protest was heard around the Capitol and the courts, if not the White House. We learned then to beware of gifts bearing bright promises.

* * *

But this year at last, Santa Claus (wearing the black robes of the federal courts) is making up for it. He has ordered the administration to unload the packages marked by the Congress for the states, for poverty, health and school programs, which have been growing moldy for years at the bottom of the sack.

So who says all the news is bad?

This year, again, the best of the brightly wrapped gifts to Maryland is the announcement by the governor that there will be no tax increase.

He clenches his teeth so adamantly at the idea that a boost might be necessary in the face of the energy crisis that we fear to open the box. It might have a time fuse in it, ready to go off just after his reelection in 1974.

That's assuming, of course, that Marvin Mandel's re-accession to the governor's chair will come after an uneventful campaign. Fat chance.

There are too many issues abounding, and there are still six months before its starts for real.

Just Spoilsports

Look, for example, at the surprise headed for hundreds of Christmas stockings around the state, compliments of the benefactors of Marvin Mandel. They spent thousands of dollars on a public opinion poll, but the impatient press couldn't wait until Christmas to open it. It was worth it.

How could you hide under a bushel (or a tree) a true-false question that goes, "I like Governor Mandel personally, but some of his friends make me nervous?"

Or how about this one: "Do you think Mrs. Mandel is acting properly in refusing to move out of the mansion or do you think she should move out so that the governor can live in the Governor's Mansion?"

Now that's really getting down to the gut issues.

Those answers may be more important to him than those to the question, "From what you know or have heard, do you feel that Governor Mandel is implicated in any way in the scandals that brought about the indictments of Spiro Agnew and other public figures in Maryland?"

If you do feel that, by the way, you have two lines to explain how. And "Be specific." (George Beall asked Santa for that one, too).

The early unwrapping of this holiday surprise may have ruined everything for Mandel, especially when it would have suggested safe positions on Watergate and the Agnew case, the Nixon impeachment, drugs, taxes, college unrest prisons the elderly health pollution and race relations.

Oh, well, let's not cry over spilled eue cards. Just think how much more fun he will have running for office like the old days, from the seat of his pants.

Needs a Lift

By the way, he could use a helicopter of his own for Christmas, now that he's been roasted for using the one available for rescue calls.

And let's not look the divorce story in the mouth. It brightened the dog days last summer and brought humor, romance and color to a very dull news beat.

Even the former Vice President — remember him, our ex-governor? — has sent us a gift: his portrait. It awaits its ceremonial unveiling while historians, political leaders and protocol buffs fret over whom to invite and what to say about them if they decide to come.

And if that's sticky, how about arranging ceremonies for unveiling Judy Agnew's portrait in the First Ladies Gallery in the Governor's Mansion, where you-know-who hasn't set foot since July?

The legislature, though, could solve it all by (1) enacting a no-fault divorce law and (2) mandating the acquisition of all past governors' portraits.

For those on welfare, a cost of living increase is due under the tree, and for state workers, a raise too.

And homeowners will receive annual re-assessments in response to their two-year-old letter to Santa for reforms. They will, however, be back for more, especially from those counties where the one-year reassessment amounted to as much as 60 per cent.

The gifts from the energy crisis, of course, are unwelcome, but might give us a sense of appreciation for the things we took for granted.

And that is the greatest gift of 1973, if we take time to notice.

A&T male nursing student feels no reservations about profession

By Kathryn Skeens

GREENSBORO, N.C. — In this controversial day of

For this holiday may never be the same again, and we may soon have to face more hardships than we could ever conceive in time of peace.

Whatever is under the tree for this coming year, let us appreciate it — and be thankful for the lights we can still see and the warmth we can still feel.

male chauvinism and women's liberation, Carl W. Preston, a male nursing student at A and T State University, bridges the gap. "I have never had second thoughts about my major," said Carl.

"Sure, I get lots of comments when people find out I'm a nursing major, but I have no doubts about who I am or what I'm doing."

Speaking with extreme self-confidence, Carl added "I chose nursing as a major because I've always liked to help people. Also the field is wide open and there will always be a need for nurses."

Carl has a clinic class in which he works at the Alamance Memorial Hospital in Burlington, N.C. three days a week.

When asked about the relationship between nurse and patient, Carl responded, "There are no restrictions placed on me in reference to the female patients.

Although I haven't had a female patient yet, I look forward to it with great anticipation. I know there will be no problems that can't be handled."

Although Carl has classes at the hospital, he works at Cone Hospital part-time to gain more experience.

He became the first male nursing student to participate in A and T's co-op program when he worked in Knoxville, Tenn. last summer.

A very determined and self-confident young man, Carl has no indecisions about his future. "If I flunk the nursing state board exam a hundred times, I'm not going to change my major. I'll just keep on trying."

J.C. Smith, who is often seen in the A and T infirmary, was the first male nursing student to graduate from A and T, leaving the school in 1964. He echoes Carl's love for the nursing profession.

A resident of Greensboro, Smith said he chose nursing as a profession because, "I was a hospital corpsman when I was in the service and then I attended x-ray lab school and I decided that nursing was what I wanted to do."

A man of variable experiences, Smith has worked in a mental institution as a psychiatric attendant and is now employed by L. Richardson Hospital as supervisor of

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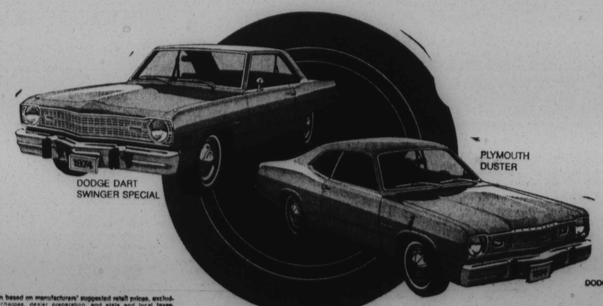

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†Maintenance flat rates and parts list are extracted from 1975 Chilton's Labor Guide and Parts Manual. Labor rates based on national average of $10.00 per hour.

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Internal Revenue Asks Del. Scott Estate For $377,965 Back Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service claims the murdered Maryland House of Delegates member, James A. (Turk) Scott, owes the government a total of $377,965.68 back taxes.

IRS authorities told the AFRO the near $400,000 is for income during the years 1969 through 1970.

This was the period when U.S. government records claim Del. Scott made several millions in heroin traffic. Other records claim he was connected with high state officials and owned land in the Bahamas on which to build a hotel.

* * *

Michael Bowen Mitchell, attorney for the family of the legislator who was killed gangland style Friday, July 13, terms the figure ridiculous.

He states he and the family "scratched in every hole" trying to find anything at all and have come up with less than $500 "at any stretch of the imagination." He said he found nothing in the Bahamas.

The total listed by creditors as "owed" by Del. Scott at death is $400,667.49.

According to Orphans Court records creditors filed their bills between Aug. 8 and Nov. 19.

Of that amount, $3,891.29 is claimed as due in state income tax; $620.45 retail sales tax and a total of $908.41 to three whiskey firms, H. W. Wright and

Court lists $908 liquor bills, Annapolis Hilton claims $594

Co., LTD, $69.92; Frederick P. Winner LTD, $220.04 and McCarthy-Hicks Inc., a wholesale liquor outlet

The Annapolis Hilton Hotel claims a balance due of $594.33.

The First National Bank lists two judgments owed as $4,661.12 and $1,424.54 both at 6 per cent interest. The Estate of Gordon E. Meinl and Edward H. Meinl claims a judgment of $5,010 and M. Philip Berke records a judgment of $3,790, all against the estate.

Also listed among creditors is B. Tyrous Addison who claims a loan of $1,500 and "cash loaned rent and maintenance" is $627.

The U.S. government indicted Del. Scott last April and claimed from 1968 through 1972 he operated a multi-million dollar heroin business, trasporting drugs from New York and distributing them in Baltimore and Washington areas.

Del. Scott was seated in the Legislature a year ago and shortly afterwards, rumors reached front page that "a member of the House of Delegates" was "a biggie" in dope circles.

He was arrested on the State House steps in Annapolis.

As long as he lived, he claimed he was not guilty and made it known he was unable even to pay his attorney or go his bail.

Friends collected money for the $30,000 bail and after death, for memorial services in Baltimore.

Last rites were held in Washington where Del. Scott's family resides. His daughter, 19-year-old Miss Tina Scott, is a student in a New York college.

Del. Scott was slain in the underground parking lot at plush Sutton Place Apartments where he resided. Sherman Dobson, 20-year-old member of a local family of clergymen was found not guilty of the murder early this month. Thus far, no suspects have been arrested and the crime remains unsolved to date.

FATHER FRANKLIN HELD FOR MURDER MIDNIGHT THURSDAY

Baltimore Afro-American

65,216 FAMILIES READ THE AFRO LAST WEEK

Founded Aug. 13, 1892

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82nd Year, No. 40

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BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 29, 1973 LATE CITY EDITION 20 CENTS ONE YEAR $9.00

Spruill Murder Trial Hits A Snag

City race population seen equal

Baltimore City's nonwhite populace nearly equalled the white population as of July 1, 1972, according to a report prepared by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

An over 60,000 estimated population decline is also predicted for the city by July 1, 1977 in the report, which shows more nonwhite school-aged children than whites and far fewer non-white elderly citizens than white.

The report, prepared under the direction of Frances Jean Warthen, presents estimates of Maryland's total July 1, 1972 resident population by political subdivision, race and broad age group and projects future population.

In July 1972 there were 445,520 whites and 436,120 non-whites, a total of 886,640 in the city, according to the report.

However, without showing racial breakdown, the city population is projected to drop steadily to 814,900 by July 1977, while the total state population as well as surrounding county populations, is predicted to show growth.

In the July 1972 5-to-17 age group, school age, there were 132,960 non-whites in the city and 83,580 whites in the city. But the 65 plus age group showed only 25,750 non-whites compared to 72,430 whites. (Lower life expectancy for non-whites may account for the large discrepancy.)

Non-whites also outnumbered whites in the under 1 age group, 8,360 compared with 5,550; in the 1 to 4 age group, 34,350 compared to 21,500, and in the 18 to 44 age group, 159,540 to 151,260.

Whites outnumbered non-whites in the 45 to 64 age group with 111,150 whites compared with 75,160 non-whites.

The report shows a total

(Continued on Page 2)

1st AFRO 1974 baby to get $100

A cash prize of $100 can be won by parents of first baby born in the New Year provided they register in the AFRO-AMERICAN First Baby Contest.

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IF YOU EXPECT a 1974 baby like this new fellow, register for the AFRO New Year Baby contest. Young Harold above, born Christmas Eve at Provident Hospital, is held by his mother, Mrs. Odessa Felder, while Nurse Miss Bernice Brown proudly looks on.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

Judge Watts may be disqualified

The Lonnie Spruill murder trial hit a snag Thursday and was postponed, first because the prosecutor for the state said she had another trial and second because the presiding jurist may be disqualified.

Judge Robert B. Watts, scheduled to preside at the Criminal Court trial, admitted he knows the Spruill family. However, he said he will leave it up to the state and the defense attorney, Leonard Freedman.

The trial is rescheduled for Jan. 24. Mrs. Mary Ann Willin is prosecutor for the state said she will ask for a new judge.

Ernest Marshall, 52, 200 block N. Denison St., is charged with the Sept. 5 murder of Lonnie Spruill, 56, 3400 block Fairview Ave., a widely known personality who had worked at the Cheverolet Plant, 1600 block Holabird Ave., 29 years.

Spruill was gunned down in the parking lot as he went to his car. He fell in a pool of blood in full sight of many employees shortly after 1 p.m. and was pronounced dead at 2:35 p.m. at City Hospitals.

Marshall told the AFRO shortly after the incident that he and Spruill were co-workers and friends over 17 years.

Police report they went to the Chevrolet plant parking lot shortly after 1 p.m.

(Continued on Page 2)

ERNEST MARSHALL charged in Sept. 5 death of Lonnie Spruill

LONNIE SPRUILL, 56, slain Sept. 5

City blasts property tax rollback plan

Although Mandel administration officials say that an expected cut in property tax assessments will relieve homeowners, Baltimore City officials say that the rollback may do more harm than good in the city.

According to press aide, Tom Burden, Gov. Mandel is giving serious thought to proceeding with the implementation of an inflationary allowance that would essentially increase from 40 percent to 50 per cent the amount of the total property value that would be discounted because of inflation.

Because the proposal is set by executive policy it must be implemented by Jan. 1 to become law, but will not need approval by the General Assembly.

Both the governor and the legislators have been under fire from the public for fail-

(Continued on Page 2)

Judge Baer Jails 2 Mothers For Welfare Fraud

Two women welfare recipients were sentenced to jail terms in the City Jail by Southwestern District Court Judge Aaron Baer on Dec. 19 for defrauding the Department of Social Services of a total of $4,040.

Court dockets show Mrs. Nancy Boulward, 24, 300 block N. Hilton St. a mother of one, was found guilty on two counts of attempting to defraud and defrauding the department of $2,820. She received six months on each count; sentences will run concurrently.

A mother of two, Mrs. Dorita Latham, age and address unknown, was jailed 90 days for defrauding the department of $1,220. In both cases the fraud spread over a period of time, according to court records.

The case came to the AFRO's attention after a reader commented the women had been sent to jail whereas Spiro Agnew was not imprisoned after he short-cut the government out of much more money.

Judge Baer last Thursday described the action of the women as "a brazen action that called for a jail sentence." He said one of the women used three names besides her own name to defraud the department.

"She invented names and filed four forms. The action stood up so bad it called for a jail sentence... it was quite unusual," the judge said.

* * *

Allen Garski, director of public information for Social Service's told the AFRO as of November this year over 200 cases of fraud involving recipients have been referred to the State's Attorney's office.

He said of the total 196 are heard or are in the process of being heard. According to him only one man has received a jail term. Mr. Garski states court action reveals some persons are not eligible at all because a recipient may be working full-time, part time or may be receiving overpayment.

(Continued on Page 2)

Will Dobson be granted a new trial?

Sherman W. Dobson, 20, will appear in Criminal Court Part Two on Jan. 15, anticipating he will have a new trial.

Defense attorneys Gerald A. Smith and Kenneth Johnson filed a motion for a new trial on Dec. 13. Dobson was convicted on Dec. 11 of kidnapping and robbing Stephen A. Brown on June 18, and using a gun in that crime of violence. Dobson is confined to City Jail.

Young Dobson, the son of Rev. Harold Dobson and Mrs. Mildred Dobson went on trial Nov. 19 for first degree murder of Maryland House of Delegate James Aubrey (Turk) Scott.

The jury found him not guilty on the murder charge. The Dobson youth lived with his parents in the 3600 block Ellamont Rd.

Quakers ask President to live faith, resign

HARTFORD, Conn. (UPI) — The clerk of the Stamford-Greenwich Religious Society of Friends said the group has decided to call on President Nixon's Quaker background and urge him to resign.

Carl Hollander of Old Greenwich, spokesman for the group, said its 19-member executive committee voted at its monthly meeting Dec. 16 to ask Nixon to resign "as one who shared their beliefs."

He said notice of the decision was delayed because of a catastrophic ice storm that played havoc with

(Continued on Page 2)

The regular Tuesday AFRO will be distributed Monday, Dec. 31 due to New Year's Day, a national holiday, falling on Tuesday. The AFRO will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 1 and wishes its readers all the peace and happiness of the New Year.

Domestics must get income tax W-2 forms

People who hire handymen, gardeners, maids and other household help should give them W-2 forms or some similar w-- and tax statements for 1973.

William D. Waters, District Director of Internal Revenue for Maryland and D.C. states that under a new IRS regulation, domestics, part time and full time, should be given W-2 forms showing federal income tax and social security information.

Mr. Waters reminds employers that they should give their employees W-2 forms for 1973 by Jan. 31. April 15 is filing deadline.

He informs that the new requirement to provide W-2 forms also applies to the employee who left the job before the end of the calen-

(Continued on Page 2)

Mandel sets reception, hostess still mystery

Still no word from the governor's office naming the hostess for the annual New Year's reception, which will be held in the Governor's Mansion on Jan. 1, from 1 to 3 p.m.

In spite of possible embarrassment because of personal problems, Gov. Mandel says the reception will be held, but has not said who will be hostess since his wife of 32 years Mrs. Barbara Mandel, moved from the mansion on Thursday, Dec. 20.

Mrs. Mandel has resided in the mansion without her husband since July 3, when the governor left stating his love for and intention to marry a Southern Maryland divorcee, Mrs. Jeanne Dorsey, mother of four.

The state's First Lady was officially out of the mansion Dec. 20. The governor officially moved back into the tax supported residence between Dec. 21 and 23.

* * *

Although the governor could announce Mrs. Dorsey as hostess, a recent poll conducted by an Annapolis paper showed strong opposition to Mrs. Mandel's having to leave the mansion and also indicated that many citizens did not trust the governor, partly because of domestic strife and

(Continued on Page 2)

HITCH-HIKERS—VICE PRESIDENT Gerald Ford shares a laugh with Lt. S. McGill (left) and Sgt. J. R. Mims (center) at Baltimore Washington International Airport on Dec. 21 when Ford was on his way to Colorado from Madrid, Spain, where he attended Prime Minister Blanco's funeral, stopped in Baltimore to pick up his family and 10 servicemen who hitched a ride on the Vice President's Air Force Jet. (UPI)

NOTICE

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TUES. JAN. 1ST THE TUES. PAPER WILL BE PUBLISHED MONDAY.

All display (block type) ads for our Tues., Jan. 1st paper should be in this office before 5 p.m. Friday. All classified (per word) ads should be in this office before 12 noon Saturday, Dec. 29th.

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LARGEST DONATION to Mrs. Santa, Ida Peters, of $600 came from Will Franklin, right, owner of Franklin's Grocery at 800 N. Carey St. Left Charles Elliott and Sheruan Elliott, associates. Their contribution helped many families to have a Xmas dinner this year.

(AFRO staff photo by Benjamin Murphy Phillips IV)