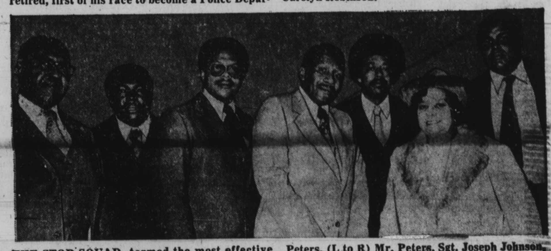
Whatever happens, it's the people who make the news

FREEDOM HOUSE AWARDS presented by Mrs. Josephine O. Young (left) and Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell (right) went to (L to R) John Walden, 12; Frank Walden, 14; Kimberly Kelly, 16 and Rufus Kelly, 12; Del. Larry Young, Mrs. Paul Chester, Mrs. Flossie Dedmond and Paul Chester, first clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.

FREEDOM HOUSE CITED the family of the late Dr. Lawrence Zollicoffer for his services as an official for many years. Freedom House President John R. Peters made presentations to (L to R) the four sons and wife, Michael, 8; Lowell, 11; Mrs. Mary B. Zollicoffer, Kevin, 12 and Bernard 8.

SPECIAL CITATIONS went from (right) Col. James A. Watkins to (L to R) Hiram Butler, retired, first of his race to become a Police Department detective; Retired Lt. Violet Hill Whyte, first ranking woman officer and Retired Lt. Carolyn Robinson.



THE STOP SQUAD, termed the most effective Police Department crime fighters, is shown in photo by Roman Hankewycz with Col. Watkins, the originator of the plan and organizer of the crack squad and Freedom House Attorney Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell and President John R. Peters. (L to R) Mr. Peters, Sgt. Joseph Johnson, Officer James Smith, Col. Watkins, Officer Alvin Winkler, Mrs. Mitchell and Officer Ronald Stewart. The officers were accompanied by their wives at the banquet.

Freedom House rewards those who have served

The Freedom House 6th annual Fellowship Dinner Dec. 12 honored the service of the late Dr. Lillie M. Jackson and renewed her goals to achieve mutual respect, safety and security in the local communities.

School Superintendent Dr. John L. Crew, devoted his address to the relationship between freedom and responsibility and the teaching of values in education.

He noted, "Freedom, does not operate in a vacuum, in complete absence of some source of authority."

In essence, he said the family, the community and the schools should teach self-discipline, instill ambition and everrising horizons in the minds and souls of children.

President John R. Peters and Judge Robert B. Watts presided. Others on the program were Ms. Mary Brown, Rev. Wayne Wigglesworth, Mrs. Johnnie Mae Thompson, Mrs. Flossie Dedmond, Col. William A. Harris, Col. James H. Watkins, Mrs. Ruth J. Pratt and Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell, Miss Josephine O. Young, Col. Bishop Robinson and Elizabeth Murphy Oliver.

Citizens present were asked to write Dr. J. Ruppert Picott, executive secretary of the Afro American Life and History Association, 1407 14th St., NW, Washington D.C., 20005 to assure the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers home office, 628 N. Eutaw St., will receive a plaque designating it an historic monument. The first of the national awards is of the Lillie M. Jackson Museum on Eutaw Place.

Awards went to; Gail Mitchell, Ruth Barrett, Monica K. Brown, Joyce Allen, Margaret Jones, Sherri Frailing, Earl Frailing, Jeremiah Eller, Wendy Fair, James Kasey, Cindy Black, John Walden, Rufus Kelly III, Frank Walden Sarah Beth Barnhardt, Kimberly Kelly, Morris B. Greene, Lt. Herbert Armstrong, Dr. Picott, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chester, Del. Larry Young, Mrs. Dedmond, Bertram Merritt, Dr. Zollicoffer's family, Bowen K. Jackson, Mr. Peters and others.

Strike Continues

1199 -E gets backing of all local AFL-CIO

A cross-section of union members of the local AFL-CIO picketed outside the Lafayette Square Nursing Center for an hour Tuesday afternoon to demonstrate support for Local 1199-E, the hospital union, which has been on strike there since August.

The strike, commenced by 1199-E, after the present owner, Mrs. Sonya Gershowitz, took over in mid-August, is entering its fifth month and shows no signs of either party reaching an agreement.

Some 75 workers are still out of work after the union protested to the owner this summer that it was a form of "union-busting" to force about 121 workers to sign new contracts because of a change in management.

Ernie Grecco, assistant to Thomas Bradley, president of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO's, said on the picket line Tuesday, "We are here to show 1199-E that they are not alone. They are not themselves. We would do this for any other union. It is just one facet of our support."

Mrs. Gershowitz had told the union members, through her labor representatives, Fred Punch, once 1199-E's president, that "farming out" services to individual agencies had become the new trend in nursing homes. In her opinion, she was justified in asking nursing personnel and dietary workers to sign new contracts with Olympic Management Co., a firm specializing in nursing and dietary management.

The union disagreed and called a strike.

Neither side has been able to come to terms, but Mrs. Gershowitz hired non-union workers soon after the strike began. They are continuing to work at the center under protests by union officials.

Left Bank sets record for success

The Left Bank Jazz Society's end-of-the-season event saw nearly 1,000 persons present Sunday to hear Art Blakey and his Jazz Messengers, Dave Schnitter, sax; Frank Gordon, trumpet; Walter Davis, piano; Cameron Brown, bass.

At intermission were Scott Cunningham and his trio featuring Glasco Ryales, Conga drummer.

Sunday, Dec. 19 has a free concert billed with the United States "Army Blues" group as the main attraction.

Benny Kearse heads the Left Bank Society which is unique in the nation and abroad as well.

DRUMMERS TWO — Art Blakey and Glasco Ryales were featured at the Sunday Left Bank concert which drew nearly 1,000 fans.

LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY PRESIDENT Benny Kearse (center) is flanked by two of the top figures of the highly successful Bicentennial year, (left) Art Blakey, the world-famed drummer and (right) Bob Matthews, the No. 1 jazz critic and veteran AFRO columnist.

ROUND AND ROUND, front, back, side, the AFL-CIO pickets registered their protest Dec. 14 at Lafayette Square Nursing Home. Metropolitan Labor Leader Tom Bradley led the line which included members from every union in the Baltimore area.

Merry Christmas

ISRAEL BAPTIST MINISTER RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS (see inside)

Baltimore Afro-American

PAROLE CASE CUTBACK MAY HELP JAIL INMATES (see inside)

85th Year No. 38

Copyright 1976 by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co. for all material previously printed in the current National Edition

BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 25, 1976 LATE CITY EDITION 25 CENTS ONE YEAR $12.00

Pro football player slain; wife held

TWO KILLED

Pre-dawn blaze ruins family Yule reunion

A planned Christmas reunion of a West Baltimore family was ruined as a one alarm fire struck their home early Tuesday morning killing two persons. Members were expecting to gather at Blackstone, Va., the family home, for a long anticipated holiday festivities.

Instead of planning surprises and special treats for each other at the family home about 35 miles outside of Richmond, Mrs. Mary Knight will now be making funeral arrangements and burial plans.

"I'm shocked. Nothing like this has ever happened in my life. I never thought our family would be planning a funeral on Christmas day." Tuesday, Mrs. Knight was recounting in a sad voice to the AFRO the story of the death of her son.

Police report a one-alarm blaze swept through the third floor of her residence killing her nephew, Raymond Fowkes, 35, and his girlfriend, Miss Bernice Davis, 20, 2236 Brookfield Ave.

Careless smoking is reportedly the cause of the blaze.

Both Mr. Fowkes and Miss Davis were found unscious near a bed when fire fighters arrived on the scene shortly after the blaze was discovered by Mrs. Knight.

Her nephew was pronounced dead on the scene and Miss Davis was taken to Bon Secours Hospital where sustained efforts to revive her failed. She died at 3:35 a.m.

The entire room of the floor was gutted. officials told the AFRO.

Arson and foul play have been ruled out, but the fire is still under investigation, according to police.

Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Knight tried to piece together what occurred, "so swiftly and so shockingly to my family," the surviving members of whom were preparing to take the body "back home" for a possible Christmas Day burial.

"I was the only one awake. I was in my room on the second floor in the front when I saw some lights blinking. I smelled smoke. I beat on the door of my son's room on the third floor in the front."

• • •

Of her nephew, Raymond, she said: "He was going down home to Virginia to visit his mother, my sister, Mrs. Elvira Oliver. She lives in Blackstone which is about 35 miles from Richmond. We were going to have a big family reunion. We'd made plans. He was going to give his mother some money for Christmas. He even promised to pay my way too.

"My son ran over to Raymond's room and kicked the door in. Then all we could see was smoke and flames. We couldn't get to the girl either. He ran

(Continued on Page 2)

COZY CHRISTMAS SETTING—What can be more perfect for that cozy Christmas setting? Many families during this Christmas will be observing the holidays by a decorative fireplace with the burning logs. . .the red and white stockings hanging over the fireplace, the holly that adorns the mantle and the Christmas tree with all the trimmings. The lounge chair and ottoman make the setting inviting and the Christmas wrapping paper and suckers in wrapped packages hanging from the mantle would indicate that this household has practically finished making preparations for Old Saint Nick.

Police state couple had several fights

Blenda Gay

BLACKWOOD, N.J. — Roxanne Gay, wife of 255-pound Philadelphia Eagles defensive lineman Blenda Gay, was charged this week with stabbing her husband to death during an argument in their home.

Police said Gay, veteran of three years in the National Football League, was fatally stabbed in the throat with an eight-inch kitchen knife. The couple's 3-year-old daughter was asleep in their $260-month luxury garden apartment at the time.

Authorities said the couple had been having domestic problems, but several members of the football team said they were unaware of any trouble.

Gay, 26, was declared dead at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in nearby Stratford at 6:25 a.m.

His wife, also 26, was charged with murder and atrocious assault and battery, according to Camden

(Continued on Page 2)

MSU alumnus gives $1,000 as Yule gift

Christmas is indeed a time for giving as Morgan State University will receive a yuletide shot in the arm from alumnus Carl E. Hite.

Hite, 35, of the 3300 block Rogers Ave. plans to donate $1,000 to the University's athletic department's general scholarship fund to be used "as they see fit."

In an AFRO interview, Hite said he plans to give the money because the university is dependent on it's alumni for support.

"Morgan opened a lot of doors for its alumni so they might obtain successful, responsible positions. It needs the help of these persons," he said.

• • •

A certified medical representative for CIBA Pharmaceutical Company for five years, Hite is a native of Baltimore graduating from Dunbar Senior High School.

He majored in Chemistry

(Continued on Page 2)

Carter names Pat Harris to HUD post

PLAINS, Ga. — Patricia Roberts Harris, designated the first black woman Cabinet officer in history, intends to strive for "communities" instead "ghettos" — for blacks, the low-income and the elderly.

Following her appointment Tuesday — amid cries of "foul" from blacks who felt that President-elect Carter had betrayed them — Mrs. Harris said:

"I believe we ought to eliminate any notion of any kinds of ghettos in housing. "I'm concerned that the federal programs that we deal with in housing look to the development of communities — that includes communities that include people of different racial backgrounds that provide some mix of economic groups."

A number of blacks were getting upset that Carter had not named a black sooner. Rightly or wrongly, the appointment of Georgia Congressman Andrew Young as United Nations Ambassador failed to impress many.

Blacks also were getting irked over the choice of Griffin Bell as Attorney General.

Carter still had gotten votes of confidence from several prominent blacks, including the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. Patricia Harris

labor was against the President-elect's choice of Secretary of Labor.

Looking ahead, Mrs. Harris said past federal policy has tended to look at segments of society instead of expressing as much concern about "ghettos for the aging" (created by housing projects for the elderly) as about racial ghettos.

Mrs. Harris said people who wish to "pay a premium" to live in expensive housing may do so, "but that decision should not be one encouraged by government policy.

"I would hope that by an effort to revitalize our cities we will find people will naturally come into communities with mixes of races and economic groups and the vitality the city provides," she said.

The government's role, she added, should be to "make it easier for people to make personal choices."

A descendent of slaves, Mrs. Harris also counts Delaware and Cherokee in-

(Continued on Page 2)

There also was some hope — encouraged largely by Carter himself — of important sub-Cabinet posts.

(Blacks were not the only ones disgruntled over Carter's top-level choices. Some women's rights activists were displeased with the two women named to the Cabinet and organized

Groups hit Bell nomination

Civil Rights groups and the Congressional Black Caucus continue to express dissatisfaction witn Jimmy Carter's choice of Atlanta lawyer Griffith E. Bell as attorney general designate.

Reaction of these groups — representatives of the coalition that thrust Carter into office only two months ago — is the first widely publicized criticism Carter has received since winning election on Nov. 2.

Leaders lambasted Carter comments that after a nation-wide search Bell, who supported G. Harrold Carswell's nomination to the Supreme Court in 1970, is the best qualified individual for the post he could find.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, Maryland's only black congressman and chairman of the Black Caucus said immediately after Bell's selection on Monday:

"The Congressional Black Caucus had hoped that the nomination for the Attorney General spot would have been so excellent that we would not have had any question about the nominee's capability, character and integrity.

"Unfortunately, this is not the case. The caucus staff, along with several other groups, will conduct intensive research into Griffith Bell's background, attitudes, method of operating and all other areas that we need to look into.

"If our research and that of other groups reveal fundamental flaws such as racial bias and personal and professional acts of discrimination, the Congress-

(Continued on Page 2)

MRS. SANTA'S OFFICE at 622 N. Eutaw St. took on a hectic air as the staff struggled to make the goal of $15,000. Club groups are having their pictures made while other civic-minded groups and individuals are adopting families and bringing in toys and warm clothing.

(AFRO staff photo by Norma L. Spencer)

THANKS FOR CARING

Mrs. Santa made it over $16,083

Tuesday night at 7 p.m. the AFRO's Mrs. Santa had only $13,721.74.

Then a miracle happened. Will Franklin of Franklin's Laundromat came in with a $500 contribution. Jim Parker called to say he was sending in $300. George Brown called to say he had another $200. to make the C and P Telephone Company's contribution $300.

Then 8 p.m. the total hit $14,406.74. Miracles of miracles before 9 p.m. the AFRO's Mrs. Santa had received enough pledges to send her over the top. . .to $15,000.

The Maryland National Guard under Sgt. Lloyd Scott started delivering the first of 300 baskets from Pantry Pride with a crew of 15 men and four trucks this past Tuesday. The baskets contained a small turkey, potatoes and more than 20 items.

Wednesday, the Guard delivered 150 more baskets to families with food picked up from A and P Food Stores.

Also on Wednesday, 500 $10. AFRO food certificates were mailed to needy families.

In the meantime, 50 families received baskets from Ashburton Ltd. Other families are being helped by readers who called in through Christmas Eve.

The NAACP held a fund raising drive in Mondawmin last Saturday and Mrs. Enolia McMillian shared $250 with Mrs. Santa. This activity was spearheaded by the NAACP Youth Group.

Other last minute gifts of toys for boys and girls 5-12 beautifully wrapped came from the Early Childhood

(Continued on Page 2)

$100 for first baby

$100 FOR 1977's first baby. That's what the AFRO is going to pay the first baby who arrives Jan. 1, 1977. Call us Monday, Jan. 3 and tell us what hospital and what time your baby arrived. We'll check it out and let you know if you win. That's all you have to do to get in line for the $100. Cimmon Elizabeth Byrd, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene (Laura) Byrd Jr.

25 DEC 25