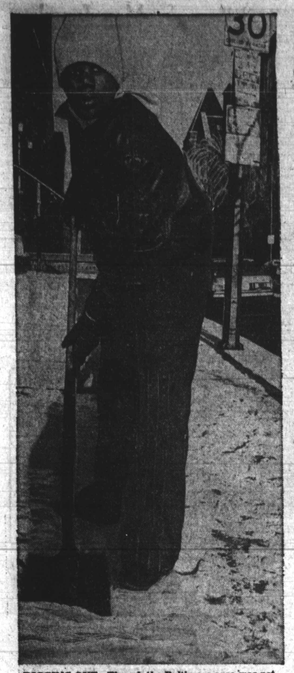

DIGGING OUT—Though the Baltimore area was not hit by a blizzard during the past week, several inches of snow did coat the area creating traffic hazards, and bringing people such as Gregory Mackall, 14, of the 1200 block McCulloh St. out to clear the sidewalks. (AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

3 UMES students to serve as legislative interns Jan. 12

Three graduating seniors at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore will spend the spring semester in Annapolis as interns for the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

Clementine Wells of Princess Anne, Sherone Simon from Prince George's County, and Keith Grimes of Boston will earn 12 undergraduate credits and $500 as they learn the practical points of politics during the 1977 legislative session.

All three students are majoring in sociology and are on the UMES honor roll.

Each student will work approximately 35 hours a week on assigned projects while in Annapolis.

Ms. Wells will serve as staff assistant to the newly formed Maryland Black Leadership Conference. Composed of a consortium of black leaders from throughout the State of Maryland the conference will help develop a nationwide position paper on the needs of black people for the uncoming administration.

Ms. Simon will assume the position of legislative assistant to the entire Black Caucus. In this position she will be involved in research and in the arrangements for press conferences and releases.

Grimes, who plans a future legal career, will work as a liaison officer between the Congressional Black Cucus in Washington, and the Maryland legislative Black Caucus. Asked if they would be taking any messages to the members of the Black Caucus, Grimes responded, "We are going to Annapolis to learn.

Clementine Wells agreed, pointing out, "The consortium of black leaders will be discussing educational problems. We need a strong educational system for all Americans;" she said, "a system that will ensure that all students learn the basic skills and are prepared to go on to the next class.

"In addition," Wells continued, "I would like to see a new approach to American history.

KEITH GRIMES, Miss Clementine Wells and Ms. Sherone Simone receive congratulations from state Senator Verda Welcome (far right) as they prepare to start their internship for the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

Baltimore Afro-American

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Budding city writer gets big break

GEORGE E. HILL movin' on up

George E. Hill at 25 really doesn't want to leave Baltimore, but he feels that he has to if his career is to be advanced.

The young and upcoming man of music hasn't closed the door on his hometown. No, not for a long shot. He'll return.

He first came to the attention of AFRO readers when he appeared in the April 20 and July 1974 editions of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

He's a poet, a writer, a song-writer, a dreamer, a realist and he's determined.

He first caught the attention of Maurice "Hot Rod" Hulbert which eventually brought out his ability as a writer of songs—with both lyrics and music.

He has written several lyric poems which were used at the Miss U.S. Teen Pageant and the Miss Black Maryland Pageant.

Now that George has some experience behind him, he wants to branch out. He wants to spread his wings. He wants to strengthen his portfolio. He'll soon be a senior at Morgan State.

After finishing Morgan, he intends to leave Baltimore for a city that has the kind of large, contact-producing music companies his career demands.

He says, "I would rather stay in Baltimore We don't have the facilities here in Baltimore. That is why so many people have to leave the city. But whatever happens, I intend to come back and help others. Because I know a lot of times when I was coming up, I could have cried because there was no one to help me.

"I want to have my songs published and after they are published, I want to have them recorded by name artists or any local group that has talent. My songs have a lot of love in them, and I just want to share them with people. I feel as though I have reached that stage now where I am an adult and I want my material distributed," he says.

And that has been the problem. He is having trouble getting his music published.

He has written over 125 songs with music and lyrics. The songs are versatile—country and western, disco- pop, rhythm and blues—whatever.

George says that he intends to keep on pushin' but right now he needs a little help.

This is but one part of the continuing saga of his life.. Stay tuned in coming years for each successive chapter achievement, by achievement, climb by climb.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES JAN. 12

Tax-cut seen as hot, nagging issue

Is a tax increase necessary this year or is it not? This is a matter which will be carefully studied by the Legislature during the coming session reports Sen. Clarence W. Blount (Balto. City, 41st), who is vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Budget and Taxation.

A report by the Department of Fiscal Services, the legislative fiscal research staff, to members of the General Assembly, projected a $176 million deficit or shortfall between projected revenues and mandatory minimum expenditures.

"The short fall they attribute to a state economy which has lagged behind the federal national average, inflation, and the use of accounting gimicks to balance the budget last year," said Sen. Blount.

Lottery funds of $55 million can be used to offset some of this, legislators were told, but this still leaves the state about $120 million short.

"The Fiscal Service staff advise us that only an increase in the sales tax or income tax can produce this much revenue," explained Sen. Blount.

One cent increase of the sales tax they estimate will provide $120 million additional state revenues. To raise this much through the income tax it would be necessary to require those with taxable income over $15,000 to pay 8 per cent, those with taxable income over $12,00 to pay 7 per cent, and those with taxable income over $10,000 to pay 6 per cent.

Sen. Blount pointed out that the state income tax now graduates to 5 per cent for all those with taxable income over $5,000, which is in actuality not a graduated tax at all.

"Taxing those with taxable income over $30,000 at a higher rate does not bring in that much additional revenue because it applies to so few people, according to the fiscal experts," Blount added.

Sen. Blount says that on the one hand the fiscal estimates for income were conservative by everybody's standards, so that there might be some hope that such an extensive tax increase is not necessary if state revenues exceed projections.

"On the other hand," he reported, "there are some very important programs to help people which have been underfunded or cut in recent years which it will be very important to provide money for."

"I plan to study these figures when they are finalized and the Governor's budget request carefully before determining how I will vote," said Sen. Blount.

TV program set for the old

The Maryland Office on Aging, the state agency responsible for administering or coordinating all of Maryland's programs for the elderly, will have its own television show beginning Jan. 15.

The 15-minute program, "Threescore and More," will be aired Saturdays at 7:45 a.m. over WBFF-TV. The hosts will be Barbara Hartzell, director of public information for the Office on Aging, and Bernard Popick, head of the agency's Senior Aides Program.

The program will take an "old age-new look" approach intended to appeal to a wide viewing audience. The first show will shed some light on myths about aging, such as the common beliefs that all older people are sick, feeble, mentally incompetent and of no further use to society.

It will show how an unfavorable image of old age is perpetuated in such vehicles as children's books and magazine advertisement, and why the image is fales.

Subsequent program will take up such topics as attitudes toward aging in different times and other cultures; the physical realities of growing older; 1977 state legislation affecting the elderly nutrition programs for senior citizens, and December - December romances. The programs will combine films, slides, videotapes, guest appearances, commentaries, questions and observations.

The Office on Aging, Maryland's newest cabinet-level agency, was created by the 1975 legislature. Headed by Dr. Matthew L. Tayback, its work is directed toward the accomplishment of three major goals.

CHARLES LAMDIN (center) a representative of the C & P Telephone Company, awards a $1,000 scholarship grant to Andrew Goodrich (far right) minority education director at the University of Maryland College Park. The scholarship, awarded by C & P every year to minority engineering students at the University of Maryland, this year went to Percy Fountain and Ms. Melinda Quarles. (L to R) Clifford Sayre, associate dean of the College of Engineering; Percy Fountain, Charles Lamdin, Melinda Quarles and Andrew Goodrich.

City Hall dedication Jan. 2

The program has now been set for the rededication of Baltimore's renovated City Hall scheduled for Jan. 2. In a unique twist, two Baltimore high school students will accept the building from Mayor William Donald Schaefer in the name of the City and its future residents.

The rededication festivities will get underway at 1 p.m. when a foot and horse powered parade kicks-off from Mount Vernon Place. The parade will go south on Charles St.; east on Baltimore St. and north on Holiday St., and will conclude at City Hall at 2 p.m. when the ceremonies will begin.

Moderator for the rededication ceremonies will be former First District Councilwomen and now Congresswomen-Elect Barbara Mikulski. Ms. Milkulski's role as moderator is in keeping with the 1876 dedication ceremony when the moderator was from "the first branch of City Council."

The program will begin with the originial prayer from the 1876 ceremonies given by Reverend John Roberts, Pastor of the Woodbrook Baptist Church, originally the Eutaw Baptist Church.

Next will be the performance one of the original hymns, "A Mighty Rock Is Our Lord", by the Loyola College Concert Choir.

Following the hymn will be a presentation of remarks from the City Hall building Committee by its chairman, Edward Oppel. Mayor Schaefer will speak next and incorporated in his remarks will be excerpts of Mayor Joshua VanSant's original speech given in 1876.

The Mayor's remarks will be followed by the singing of the second original hymn by the Loyola College Concert Choir, Old Hundred".

Two Baltimore high school students will then officially receive the building from the mayor for the city and its future residents.

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MINI NEWS

New judge for Mandel trial

U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Taylor of the Eastern District of Tennessee was named Monday to preside over the political corruption trial of Gov. Marvin Mandel and four associates. Taylor, 77, who became the third judge in the mail fraud and racketeering case, replaced U.S. District Court Judge John H. Pratt of Washington who declared a mistrial Dec. 7 and then asked to withdraw from the case. U.S. Supreme Court Chief Judge Warren Burger announced the designation of Taylor as the new trial judge, saying Taylor will "sit in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, specifically to preside over the trial of the case of the United States vs. Mandel et al, now scheduled to begin Feb. 6, 1977."

City, Dundalk now agree

Mayor William Donald Schaefer has announced that Baltimore City Hospitals and Church Hospital have agreed to a plan providing a single ambulatory care center in Dundalk operated jointly by the two hospitals. Agreement comes at the end of months of negotiations and appears to settle what has been a controversial issue in Dundalk since last spring, when both hospitals filed applications to build ambulatory care centers in Dundalk. The Central Maryland Health Systems Agency had ruled that the proposals were competitive, and has been studying the respective plans to determine whether neither, both, or one or the other would be approved.

Recreation sites named

The Mayor's Traffic Safety Commission has made available, during the holidays, ninty locations, supervised by the Department of Recreation and Parks, at recreation centers and school areas, for children to roller skate with safety. Parents are urged to remind their children to skate in these areas. Gifts and prizes will be given to participants. If you are not sure of the location in your neighborhood, please call the Department of Recreation and Parks at 396-5638.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES—The Package Machine Mechanics Program was officially opened during a recent ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Mergenthaler Vocational - Technical High School. (L to R) Dr. John Gist, deputy superintendent for public instruction; Dr. Benjamin Whitten, assistant superintendent for vocation education; Quentin Lawson, education liaison officer for the Mayor's office; Dennis Jensen, chairman of the packaging machine advisory committee for Lever Brothers; a student of the packaging machine mechanics program and Dr. Theodore F. Rybka, coordinator of vocational education.

HE GETS SIX CONSECUTIVE LIFE TERMS

Blackwell's attorney to file an appeal

Mrs. Elsbeth Levy Bothe, attorney for Anthony Lee Blackwell, the 21-year-old man who was sentenced to death under a now abolished Maryland capital punishment law, on said she will appeal her client's six life terms plus 30 years sentence.

Mrs. Bothe plans to file the appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court within 90 days. Blackwell, 21, was convicted of firebombing a row house at 537 Laurens St., July 17, 1975 killing six persons and injuring seven others.

Criminal Court Judge Paul A. Dorf sentenced Blackwell Jan. 4 to six consecutive life terms in prison, plus 30 years on an arson charge. Dressed in prison clothes, Blackwell showed no emotions when sentence was imposed.

* * *

He was the first person in Maryland to be convicted under the Maryland capital punishment law which went into effect 16 days before the firebombing occurred. The law required the death penalty for certain kinds of first degree murders.

Mrs. Bothe said she feels Blackwell should be tried on the merits of the degree of the murder. "Blackwell is the only berson since 1909 tried in Maryland who was accused in a murder where the jury could only acquit or find first degree murder," said Mrs. Bothe.

She added, "If the jurors did not have to choose between those extreme choices they might have found Blackwell guilty of lesser murder charges, such as second degree murder or manslaughter."

* * *

When firemen entered the house they found the charred bodies on the third floor. The victims in the two alarm fire were Miss Rochelle Gwynn, 15; Miss Johnlene Gwynn, who Blackwell claimed had stolen his money, Edward Gwynn, 2; John Gwynn, 12; April Gwynn, 5; and Miss Laverne Nelson, 18.

The evening before the fire, police reports said, Blackwell accused Johnlene of taking $25 from him and threatened to come back and burn the house.

After leaving the area Blackwell caught a cab and told the driver he needed gas for his car. Blackwell placed the gas in three bottles with a piece of cloth and threw them in the front windows of the Laurens St., home.

Mrs. Bothe described Blackwell as "A decent young man who joined Job Corps and completed his high school education.

* * *

Blackwell admitted at his trial he threw three gasoline firebombs at the house where he had earlier had an argument with Miss Johnlene Gwynn.

Blackwell was chased away from the house after a police officer heard him say he would return and burn down the house. Around 4 a.m. he did return with the firebombs and threw them in the house.

Blackwell must serve 15 years before applying for parole and must have any consideration granted him reviewed by the governor.

Sentence for a life term prisoner in Maryland is 22 years. If Blackwell earns good behavior time while at the Pententiary, he could be paroled in as few as 11 years.

ANTHONY LEE BLACKWELL

Shake-up follows critical report at animal shelter

The recent shake-up at the Bureau of Animal Control which resulted in the appointment of a new director and a new internal operations chief was occasioned by a recent highly critical appraisal of the shelter by an investigator with the Humane Society of the United States, the AFRO has learned.

Though no one in the city administration has been willing to go on record to confirm this report, both appointments are related to the report.

According to Philip E. Steward of the humane society, lack of leadership in the bureau, located on Calverton Tf., has been the biggest problem there.

"he official said the investigator recommended the dismissal of the shelter's two top officials.

* * *

On Thursday morning press conference at the city Health Department revealed that Lloyd Ross, a 10-year veteran in environmental health with the department would become the bureau director and Harvey Jones, who has been a sanitary enforcement officer with the department for eight years, would be named director of internal operations of the animal shelter.

Both announcements were made by Dr. Susan Guarnieri, assistant commissioner of Adult Health Services.

* * *

In addition to the two appointments, she also announced, "Four veterinarian consultants are being contracted to provide coverage to the shelter. This will allow more comprehensive coverage than we have had in the past."

The bureau is responsible for seeing to the capturing of stray city dogs and requiring rabies shots for those who need them, as well as licensing and proper kennel maintenance.

Humane care for the animals at the shelter was also a point of criticism by

NEW ANIMAL SHELTER officals named by the Health Department this week are Lloyd Ross, director of animal control and Harvey Jones, director of internal operations.

(Continued on Page 31)

Alexander may be named Carter's Army secretary

ATLANTA (UPI) President-elect Jimmy Carter may appoint black Washington, D.C. lawyer Clifford Alexander as secretary of the Army, the Atlanta Constitution reported.

The newspaper said sources report Alexander, who was the top civil rights official under former President Lyndon Johnson, is under consideration to head one of the three service branches.

If Carter appoints him to head the Army, Alexander would become the first

CLIFFORD ALEXANDER

(Continued on Page 30)

Garland granted new trial

A new trial has been granted Michael Sean Garland, 26, following a Dec. 28 Court of Special Appeals ruling that "The case was fraught with racial overtones."

Garland was indicted by the grand jury in April 1973 and found guilty by an allwhite Montgomery County Circuit Court jury of killing a white police officer Norman Buchman April 6, 1973.

In his ruling, Special Appeals Judge Charles E. Moylan said Garland was a victim of a pattern of harassment by the officer who followed him, stopped him, impounded his new car and treated him rudely and contemptuously.

Calling it a landmark case, Attorney William H. Murphy Jr., told the AFRO, "This is the first time in recent history that the Court of Soecial Appeals has dealt straight forward with a racial issue of this kind.

"It was clear at the time of the trial that the assistant state's attorney wanted the case out of Baltimore to get an all white jury."

Police report Officer Buchman sustained fatal bullet wounds of the face while in the 2500 block Quantico Ave. Following Garland's arrest in 1973, Murphy is quoted as saying, "There is strong evidence that the police beat Garland severely. His back was raw as a beef steak and he had two black eyes, and cuts and bruises on his

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Baltimore Afro-American

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3 families taken in roundup had $47,000 cash

Trial opens for woman 'in big narcotics ring'

State slates gala inaugural reception

The Maryland Inaugural Reception Committee will hold a three hour gala and reception Jan. 18 at the National Visitors' Center (formerly Union Station) in Washington, D.C.

The announcement was made at a press conference Thursday by State Senator James Clark, chairman of the committee.

According to Sen. Clark, the reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. and is expected to be the largest reception in Washington during inaugural week.

Clark said more than 10,000 persons have been invited to the reception in keeping with President-elect Jimmy Carter's desire to have as many citizens as possible participate in the inaugural activities.

"Anybody who wants to come can come," he said.

The state senator said tickets for the affair are barring disapproval by the City Council.

According to a spokesman for the mayor their names were formally submitted to the Council this week despite the fact the next meeting is not scheduled until Jan. 17.

If all are reconfirmed by the City Council the board will retain its current balanced makeup of five men and four women and five black persons and four white.

* * *

School officials state although the term of each member expires at the end of the year, each person was still eligible to participate in last night's School Board meeting held at Coldstream Elementary School.

Dr. Scott, currently the senior member of the board, was appointed in 1971.

An outspoken foe of Dr. Roland Patterson during the 1975 hearings, Dr. Scott is the primary force be-

(Continued on Page 2)

PUSHING BIG PACKAGE — Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich. (R) is leader of a group of 41 members of Congress who Wednesday urged Jimmy Carter to approve a $30 billion economic stimulus package, two thirds of it in programs to directly create jobs. This is considerably bigger than the $15 billion or $20 billion federal package which Jimmy Carter's transition staff has been discussing. At left is Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md.

(UPI Telephoto)

Police seize $36,000 from suspect's home

Assistant State's Attorney John Denholm told a Criminal Court jury on Thursday, Ms. Annie Mae Jones, 47, of the 3400 block Milford Ave., was "head of one of the largest narcotics rings in Baltimore."

Ms. Jones was released on $40,000 bail following a narcotics raid in May 1975. She is charged with narcotics violations and conspiracy.

Denholm told the jury 18 people were arrested following several months of wire tapping. Police found $36,000 in Ms. Jones' apartment and recovered $6,000 from her pocketbook when she was arrested.

* * *

Ms. Jones is quoted as telling the police the money in her pocketbook was for "her gas and electric bill."

The jury will hear taped phone conversation in which Ms. Jones was allegedly discussing narcotics.

Raymond Fortune, 25, who pleaded guilty to narcotics violations Jan. 5 will be the state's key witness. Fortune, 25, of the 3800 block Edgerton Rd., will be sentenced March 2 along with two other members of his family who pleaded guilty Wednesday.

* * *

Ms. Harriett Fortune, 30, of the 100 block N. Amity St., and Mrs. Madeline Fortune, 35, of the 3800 block Edgerton Rd., were released on bail.

Court records state six of

(Continued on Page 31)

Three persons renominated to School Board

Three persons have been confirmed this week for reappointment to the Board of School Commissioners.

Mrs. Sheila Sachs, Dr. W. Eugene Scott and Mrs. Betty Hyatt were nominated Wednesday by the Mayor's office to continue on the nine member body,

WINTER WONDERLAND — With cold temperatures and snowy weather the Baltimore area has been experiencing lately many people (AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz) find themselves in the mood for winter sports, bringing dozens of skaters to the citys new ice rank in Charles Plaza downtown.

New federal credit law revealed

A state official said Thursday that under a new federal regulation effective March 23, persons that turn down a credit application must give the applicant the specific reason for the denial.

"For the first time, the credit applicant will know why he or she was turned down and may be able to do something about it," said Alan T. Fell, commissioner of Consumer Credit for the State Department of Licensing and Regulation.

* * *

According to Fell, at the present time a creditor does not have to give any reason for denying credit.

"Many people complain to my office that they have received rejection letters that only state they didn't received enough points in the creditor's scoring sys-

(Continued on Page 2)

'77 General Assembly opens Jan. 12

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — The 1977 Maryland General Assembly opens next Wednesday with its usual pomp and circumstance.

Key events occurring that day will be the appointment of the legislative leaders for the House of Delegates and the Senate at a 11 a.m. caucus.

Del. John H. Briscoe, who serves as the present House leader and Sen. Steny H. Hoyer, president of the Senate, are expected to be re-appointed by their peers.

Once that is done the '77 session will open at 12 noon with the annual opening day speeches by the House and Senate leaders.

The Maryland Legislature is made up of 191 senators and delegates who introduce, deliberate and vote on bills they hope will become the law in Maryland.

The session this year is expected to be more a "people oriented issue session" rather than the "political oriented issue session of last year.

Of those 191 legislators, 19 of them are black representatives.

These 19 representatives, five senators and 14 delegates, make up the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

Heading the Caucus is Sen. Robert Douglass, elected to the post last year after Del. Lloyal Randolph stepped down.

Sources close to the Caucus have said that the organization has become a more forceful, unified, viable group under Sen. Douglass and that there is some speculation he will be re-elected as chairman.

However based on an understanding reached by the Caucus, Douglass is only supposed to serve for one year and the post is expected to go to a House representative.

* * *

One black representative who will not be present at the opening of the '77 General Assembly will be Del.

(Continued on Page 17)

SEN. CLARENCE W. BLOUNT

SEN. VERDA F. WELCOME

SEN. CLARENCE M. MITCHELL III

SEN. TOMMIE BROADWATER JR.