THREE GENERATIONS—When Kathleen Graves (R) graduates from Dundalk Community College (DCC) Sunday, June 5, she will be the third generation of her family to graduate from the school. Her mother, Shirley Burks (C) and grandmother, Geneva Graves (L) are alumnae of DCC.

Morgan chorus in Poe opera

The East Coast premiere of "The Voyage of Edgar Allan Poe" written by Peabody graduate Dominick Argento will be held at the Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore, June 6, 8, 10 and 11.

The opera, underwritten by local business and national foundations, will be performed by the Minnesota Opera Company with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Morgan State University Chorus under the direction of Dr. Nathan Carter.

The 35 members of the Morgan Chorus will join a cast of 15 principal singers to present the story involving a mysterious voyage that ended with the famous author's death in Baltimore. The Edgar Allan Poe Home and grave are tourist attractions in downtown Baltimore.

Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president of the University, is heading a group of administrators, faculty members and alumni who have purchased 700 tickets for sale to supporters of the university for June 10. (Call 301-444-3200).

The chorus will be on stage throughout most of the Poe Opera adding a new set of talents to their obvious vocal abilities, that of performing live action on stage.

The chorus will be dressed in period costumes designed by Tanya Moiseiwitsch who is also responsible for the sets which feature a 40-foot ship.

The Morgan Chorus has toured Europe and has made recordings for the Smithsonian Institute as well as for the Columbia Records' Black Composers Series recorded in Helsinki and London. They are planning for an appearance at Carnegie Hall in New York City and will be the resident choir for the New York Philharmonic Festival in Lincoln Center this year.

Former O'Jay William Powell buried in Ohio

CANTON, Ohio — William Powell Jr., a former member of the top vocal trio, The O'Jays, died Thursday, May 26, after an extended illness of several years.

Powell, an original member of the Ohio-based O'Jays, enjoyed 18 years as a group member and contributed tenor vocals to their many hits, "I Love Music," "Love Train," "Backstabbers," and many others, which lifted the group into world wide prominence.

His illness eventually led to his departure from the group in 1975.

Powell, 35 at the time of his death, is survived by two daughters, Tracie and Stacy Powell, his mother, Lenora Golngs, four sisters and three brothers.

Funeral services for Powell were held Tuesday, May 31 here at the singer's home.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Ex-dancer Warren, presy of Hollywood's Performers Club, will miss his club's June 10 Vegas outing, as he's in Detriit for a month acting in "Blue Collar," the next Richard Pryor movie, now filming in the auto city.

SHOWCASE '77 was a real display of talent the other evening at the Troubadour here. The singing talents of Frankie Gay, brother of Marvin Gaye, and singe "Give It Up" on Marvin's new album, were offered for a big crowd of recording, publishing, radio and press people. On the show bill also was rollicking singer Nate Evans, former lead singer with the Impressions, who shook the house with his moving songs and shook up a lot of the ladies present with his fine ballads.

But the singer who shook up everybody was the sparkling Alton McClain from Baltimore, who caught the immediate attention and won the praises of every music person present. She is that good. Quite a singer. Great on looks, prime on figure and sure to appear soon on somebody's recording roster. Her singing, as well as that of Gay and Evans, was back by an octet of tremendous quality. Cold Fire. The band is super on music-playing and singing harmony with equal ability and ease. Already several recording firms are talking with them.

Sales tax up

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

The Maryland state sales, car purchase, and boat titling taxes jumped from 4 per cent to 5 per cent this week, making this the tenth state in the county to have a 5 per cent sales tax or higher.

Baltimore residents cannot only expect to see their dollar worth one penny less, but they can expect an increase in utility bills, an increase in the cost of all their purchases except food, and an even higher food cost when eating in restaurants.

Sales tax increases which will cost you and other Maryland consumers an estimated total of $142.75 million over the next 13 months will be used to pay for higher government spending.

It totaled about $600 million a year in the early 1960s but now is approaching $4 billion.

Coppin commencement to be held Sunday

Commencement exercises for the graduates of Coppin State College will be held in the Civic Center Sunday, June 5, at 8:00 p.m. Several hundred undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas.

The highlight of the commencement program will be an address by Sen. Clarence W. Blount.

Sen. Blount, legislator, educator and a long-time resident of Baltimore City, is an Administrative Assistant to the President of the Community College of Baltimore, and has received degrees from Morgan State University, Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University.

He is Vice-Chairman of the Budget and Taxation Committee of the Senate of Maryland, the majority whip of the Senate, a member of the Legislative Policy Committee, a National Committeeman, and Chairman of the Baltimore City Delegation.

Post Pavilion

The Post Pavilion in Columbia, Maryland will open their 10th Anniversary Season with popular artist, Dan Fogelberg on June the Pavilion will offer a 11. During the 1977 season from Ballet and Symphony varied program ranging temporary entertainment, to Jazz and Popular. Con-

The entertainment program will include Seals and Crofts, Hall and Oates, America, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, James Taylor and Bor Scaggs.

Additional attractions will include five concerts offered by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Gordon Lightfoot, Nell Sedaka, popular recording group, Chicago; 1976 Grammy Winner, George Benson, Harry Chapin and the great jazz vocalist, Cleo Laine.

V.S.O.P., featuring the Herbie Hancock Quintet, the Kinks, Kris Kristofferson, the star of the film "A Star Is Born", Linda Ronstadt, Shanana, Joni Mitchell, Leo Sayer, Chuck Mangione, Al Stewart, Emmylou Harris, Bread and JaJckson Browne will also be appearing.

CLEVELAND — Andrew L. Johnson Jr. has become the first black president - elect of the Bar Association of Greater Cleveland. For years, the attorney campaigned to get blacks in leadership posts in the 300 - member association.

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Johnson has been practicing law in Cleveland since 1960.

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For Dixon Stars, hard work leads to successful family affair

ALL EYES ARE on the umpire who signals Grayland High safe at second on a steal in the Dixon Stars game with Parkville last Wednesday.

The story of the Dixon Stars, with a baseball team for ages 15 to 19, in the Baltimore City Recreation Department, is one of ambition, hustling and friendship.

It's the kind of story that success usually spoils. But in the case of the Stars, which compete in the Baltimore Tri Club Leagues 41-A and B, it has been as important as glue to a model airplane.

Last year, before the season started, the team's namesake, coach Charles Dixon, decided his players were "just too good" to play in the 14 to 16 age group. The experience gained playing against older players prepared the Stars for their lightning 5-0 start in Unlimited League 2b this year.

Oddly enough, though, in the Stars' first game this summer in the 16-19 bracket, they lost 5-3 to Parkville last Wednesday at Edmondson, their home field.

But after their shaky history, the Stars are probably happy just to be playing at all.

The rising cost of uniforms from 1974 to 1976 sent the 16 team members plus their friends and families, out into the streets searching for money to keep the team going.

"We have had suppers and raffles to raise money before," Dixon explained, standing by his bench in the Parkville game.

"We have had to stand on corners with buckets asking for donations. I have personally gone to each store in Edmondson Village with letters asking for money for the team," Dixon said.

Couple the team's emergency fund raising tactics with a 1976 dismissal Dixon got from his 20-year job as a shipping clerk, and you've got the makings of a 'no more Dixon Stars' story.

"Last year I was going to give up the team," Dixon remembered. He had been channeling a lot of his own money into the team, even though he has a wife and three kids. "I just couldn't look my players in the face if I quit."

Needless to say, the team is in operation. But it took drilling a well into the team's pool of kinship with each other to pull it off.

Meetings at Dixon's house, where "we rapped about baseball and any other things the players wanted to talk about helped Each players' parents also helped with money, and that special support which was given every time they came to the games.

Dixon and his wife, even though the wiry coach is making occasional money from his "self employment" as a painter, bought the team's hats and socks.

In explanation, Dixon says he coaches "kids who just love to play the game." Singled out by Dixon for love above and beyond duty pitcher Terry Little, the Stars' MVP since 1974, whose record dropped to 2-1 after the Parkville loss.

Dwyane Folks, a strong-armed catcher who has been with Dixon as a player since he was 13 in the Edmondson Village Little League, was also touted by the coach.

The Dixon Stars are obviously not just concerned with winning, though they have in the past. Instead as Dixon, who "puts in 30 hours a week with the team," sees it, "about keeping 16 kids off the streets and away from vandalism and dope."

A GRIMACE MARKS this delivery by the Stars Terry Little, who lost his first game this summer to Parkville.

WATCHING INTENTLY is Stars' coach Charles Dixon.

Africa: long way from Walbrook

Late in July, two former Baltimore high school basketball stars will walk down their front steps and, like Dorothy was whisked away to Oz, will close their eyes and end up in Africa on a goodwill basketball tour.

Darwin Lilly, a sparty five-nine player from Virginia Union, via Walbrook and Mervin Payne, 6-9, All Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) forward from Lewiston and Tremondon, will both be members of the CIAA 14-member all-star team that will tour Northern Africa.

For Lilly, who lives at 660 N. Fremont Ave., the trip is the type of "new experience" that falls right into his long range plans, which include extensive travel.

And one of the vehicles for his planned trips, he said, just may turn out to be the Harlem Globetrotters.

"I would be interested in something like that," the VU sophomore said in a Wednesday phone interview. "The Globetrotters go everywhere."

As much as Lilly looks forward to the learning experience of the Africa trip, which includes stops in Morocco, Egypt, and the Central African Republic, competitive spirit won't let him allow the trip to be just a vacation.

"I want to win," he said, "and I'll do what I have to do to win. But the tour will be nice," he conceded.

Symbolically, the trip to the Continent is the story book story of the inner-city kid using sports to take him to his personal promised land. All-city, All-state, All-American; they all followed Lilly's name during his even navier days.

He had the type of talent that got him bundles of scholarship offers from colleges and universities, yet said he picked Union "because he waited too late" to decide.

And now he says, after a normal adjustment period, the south is "beautiful" and Union is where he'll pick up his degree in accounting. It wasn't easy, he said.

"The game must end sometimes," Lilly said of his decision to major in the stable field of accounting. "There is no use putting everything in sports and not have something to fall back on."

Lilly says he has "never thought about" his kinship with Africa, but adds the learning of his "culture" on his trip, will help him next term, when he "expects to ... take a couple of black history courses."

On the court, Lilly looks like a midget among men before the tip off. But once the clock starts, the midget becomes a passing, penetrating monster, dishing off behind the back, through the legs, or even around the head.

Although he modestly explains his presence on the all-star team, "I guess because of my performance," CIAA official coaches Clarence "Big House" Gaines and Harvey Heartly who selected the team, knew a good thing when they saw it: 25 games, 102 assists, 13.9 points per game, as well as his intangible knack for using crowd-pleasing passes on the assists.

Unlike the dominating Payne, who made the team by virtue of his all-CIAA, all-league status, Lilly was picked in substitution for a graduating senior. None of the seniors on the all CIAA, and all Tournament team who made the team, are eligible for the trip.

There is just one problem with the seemingly perfect opportunity for Lilly. He was going to find a job and work this summer, but because of the trip, might not be able to find one for just one month.

So it seems that amidst the wealth of knowledge and experience that is America, Darwin Lilly will have no spending change.

DERWIN LILLY (11) makes a lay up for Walbrook in a high school game against Dunbar a year ago. Lilly, a sophomore at Virginia Union in the CIAA Conference, will travel to Northern Africa in July with a conference all star team.

League folds

The Spring Hall Junior League No. 73, one of the Baltimore City Recreation Department's Little Leagues, has folded because four of the league's six teams have disbanded.

Harford Park and Violetville are the only two that still have active teams. HP coach Louis Jones says that he will put his team into the Baltimore Tri Junior League.

Howard County Youth Program, H and H Blasters, P.C. Cobra, and St. Martin are the four disbanded teams. P.C. Cobra failed to field a team in one league's opening games on April 24.

St. Martin's, meanwhile, sports an unlimited girls' softball team. The team is undefeated having defeated Hansans 19-4 and the Rangerettes 9-6.

Page for youth

The ever-changing world of summer sports in Baltimore, including little league baseball, tennis, track and field and softball will be reported starting next week in the AFRO's SPORTS PAGE, which begins next Friday.

The page will use a mixture of features, photos, and colorful writing as an invitation to AFRO readers to share the ups and downs of the amateur athlete of the summer.

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WASHINGTON — Ms. Willi Delaney has been named special assistant to the director of the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau. A native of Washington and former Atlanta resident, she worked in Jimmy Carter's 1976 campaign for election.

She graduated from Martha Washington High School and attended Catholic University of America, both in Washington.

The 33-year-old resident of Silver Springs, Md., holds degrees from Howard and American University "its back in Washington."

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