ADDRESSER PUBLISHERS — Featured at one of the luncheon sessions at the National Newspaper Publishers Association convention in St. Louis last week: (L to R) N.A. Sweets, publisher of the St. Louis American; Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, NNPA president and publisher of the San Francisco Sun-Reporter; Mrs. Martha "Bunny" Mitchell of Washington, special assistant to President Carter; an unidentified officer of Anheuser-Busch, which hosted the luncheon; Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, commander of the North American Air Defense Command; and Dr. Eugene Mitchell, convention chairman and publisher of the St. Louis Argus.

NEWSPAPER CITATIONS—Arthur (Art) M. Carter, publisher of Washington AFRO-AMERICAN holds three of five merit awards the newspaper won at the annual National Newspaper Publishers Association convention in St. Louis, Mo. These citations were in the categories of best news pictures, (second prize); best business pages (third prize); and Carl Murphy Community Service, third prize for Carter's series of columns on "Jobs and Justice" dealing with the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Carter is flanked by Lillian Wiggins (L) whose women's page won a second-place award; and Ruth Jenkins, second prize for church pages.

HISTORIC SITE — Publishers of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, meeting in St. Louis last week, held a symbolic press conference at the Old Federal Courthouse where the historic Dred Scott Decision was made. The courthouse is framed by the famous Gateway Arch, a major tourist attraction in St. Louis.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND — Kenneth Stanley (C), chairman of the NNPA scholarship committee receives $10,000 check from Marshall Bass, left, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company representative, as Dr. Carlton Goodlett, NNPA, president, looks on. The Reynolds Co. annually has presented funds for the scholarship awards which enables young students of journalism to continue school.

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AT NNPA FETE

AFRO takes several honors

(Special to the AFRO)

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Black newspapers have been and must continue to be a dominant force in the progress of minority people everywhere, publishers of the National Newspapers Publishers Association were told by two high officials in the Carter Administration, here, last week.

More than 200 publishers and editors of NNPA papers were in attendance at the three-day convention which stressed the theme, "The Search For a Black Ideology — the Role of the Black Press — the Pen Rather Than the Sword."

Day-long sessions were held at the Breckenridge Pavilion Hotel as the publishers in their 37th annual convention, commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Black Press.

General Daniel (Chappie) James, the nation's only black four-star general, and Mrs. Martha (Bunny) Mitchell, member of the White House staff, told the publishers black newspapers provide an invaluable service to both black and white Americans.

Gen. James declared, "Things have changed a lot over the years, and for black people, many of those changes came because of the role played by black newspapers."

"There was a time I can remember when there was only one black congressman, and now I can't even count them all," James emphasized. "But that doesn't mean that everything is the way it should be. There is still a long way to go," he added.

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Mrs. Mitchell told the publishers "the Black Press has more impact on the decisions made by black people than I think anyone realizes; the white media perspective has always been a general one. The real source of meaningful news is from our own community newspaper."

Mrs. Mitchell issued a challenge to the publishers to encourage young blacks to join their businesses, declaring, "It is essential that black community newspapers flourish because they provide a service that we cannot obtain from any other source."

She said the accomplishments of persons such as herself and Gen. James were only a start and that through the continued efforts of the Black Press further achievements could be realized.

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In honor of the 150th anniversary of the first black newspaper published in the United States by John Russwrum, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed Black Press Day 1977, and the proclamation was read at the convention.

Four major awards were presented by the NNPA. The Freedom of the Press Award went to the People's Temple Church of San Francisco for the support it gave to reporters and editors of the Fresno Bee who were arrested last year for refusing to disclose the source of their information about a sealed grand jury report.

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Garth Reeves, publisher of the Miami Times, was honored as "Publisher of the Year," and Benjamin L. Hooks, retiring Federal Communications commissioner and executive director-designate of the NAACP, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

Hooks was cited for his role in promoting blacks, women and other minorities in the broadcasting field.

The Russwurm Award was presented to two publishers, James Lee of the Sacramento Observer and Jerrel Jones of the Milwaukee Courtier.

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In a special ceremony, Dr. Carlton Goodlet, president of NNPA, held a conference on the steps of the old Federal Courthouse on Friday morning, the event commemorating the day the Dred Scott Decision was issued from that court.

Governor Joseph Teasdale of Missouri, State Senator Franklin Payne and Cordell Reed, nuclear energy expert, Commonwealth Edison Company, were among other speakers during the convention.

At the climaxing Awards Banquet, checks were presented to the NNPA for the association's Scholarship Fund by Marshall Bass, R. J. Reynolds Company, and Henry Brown, Anheuser Busch Company.

During the presentation of annual NNPA Merit Awards to NNPA papers and staff members who were cited for excellence in journalism, the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers received seven awards, five going to the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN and two to the Richmond AFRO-AMERICAN.

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The Richmond AFRO won second place in the Carl Murphy Community Service category, and third place in the Best Column Writing class. Raymond Boone, editor, Richmond AFRO, won the Community Service award, and Preston Yancey, the column award.

Art Carter, editor, Washington AFRO, won two third prizes in the Best Business Pages category and the Carl Murphy Community Service class.

The Community Service award was based on a series of columns (Jobs and Justice) and editorials crusading for a black Civil Service commissioner.

Three second place awards went to Lillian Wiggins, women's editor of the Washington AFRO, for Best Women's Pages; Ruth Jenkins, city editor, Washington AFRO, for Best Church Pages, and Samuel Courtney, photographer, for Best News Picture, respectively.

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Executions for rape ended with Supreme Court ruling

By Cynthia Mills

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court closed out its term Wednesday with a declaration that rape, while ranking second only to murder as an "ultimate violation," cannot be punished by death so long as the victim survives.

Justice Byron White, speaking for the court majority, said death is a "Grossly disproportionate and excessive punishment" for the crime of rape — no matter how deprayed or brutal — and is forbidden by the 8th Amendment as cruel and unusual punishment.

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Two dissenters said the ruling leaves the "clear implication" that execution will only be allowed for murder and that death laws for other nontatal crimes — such as kidnapping, plane hijacking (or treason — are invalid.

The six-man majority did not discuss those issues, however, when it reversed the sentences of Ehrlicm Anthony Cokar, John Wesley Hooks and John Wallace Eberheart, all on Georgia's death row for rape.

Their ruling may also save Donald Boyer and William James Hughes in Georgia, and William Shaw in Florida, who also faced execution for rape.

"Short of murder, rape is the ultimate violation of self," White said, but added, "In terms of moral depravity and of the injury to the person and to the public, it does not compare with murder.

"Life is over for the victim of the murderers. For the rape victim, life may not be nearly so hopeless as it was, but it is not over and normally is not beyond repair.

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"We have the abiding conviction that the death penalty, which is unique in its severity . . . is an excessive penalty for the rapist who, as such, does not take human life."

The court, before adjourning until Oct. 3, issued a series of orders, including one of the emotional issue of federal funding for abortions.

The Justices told U.S. District Judge John Dooling in New York to take a look at their recent rulings that states need not fund elective abortions for poor women then reconsider the validity of a law banning use of U.S. tax dollars to pay for them.

They set aside Dooling's order blocking the law but also refused to allow it to go into effect immediately.

Therefore, federal medical funds for abortions will continue for at least 25 days — the time it takes the court to send its mandate to the Judge.

The issue of whether the death penalty was "disproportionate" for rape was left undecided last year when the Supreme Court ruled that capital punishment for murder, is not prohibited by the Constitution if fairly and evenly administered.

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Since the government began keeping records in 1930, 455 men — 90 per cent of them black — have been executed for rape in America. Before the Supreme Court in 1971 struck down all existing capital punishment laws, 16 states sanctioned the death penalty for rape.

Today, Georgia is the only state authorizing execution for the rape of an adult woman. Florida and Mississippi laws allow death for the rape of children by adults.

NAACP Legal Defense Fund Lawyer David Kendall, said the decision "brings to a close one of the most shameful and racist chapters of this country's criminal justice system."

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But Chief Justice Warren Burger, in a dissenting opinion joined by Justice William Rehnquist, said the high court overstepped its bounds by not letting states decide the issue.

"The clear implication of today's holding appears to be that the death penalty may be properly imposed only as to crimes resulting in death of the victim," he said.

Justice Lewis Powell joined the majority, but said it went too far in holding that "capital punishment always — regardless of the circumstances — is a disproportionate penalty for the crime of rape."

"The deliberate viciousness of the rapist may be greater than that of the murderer," Powell said. "Some victims are so grievously injured physically or psychologically that life is beyond repair."

Machinery, equipment sales grow

Maryland State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein reported sales of hardware, machinery and equipment are growing rapidly, according to State sales tax figures.

Goldstein related that a preliminary breakdown of major sales and use tax sources indicates that tax collections from the hardware, machinery and equipment category for the month of May 1977 are 9.95 per cent ahead of collections for May of 1976.

Net sales and use tax collections for the month of May totaled $73,171,931, up 4.17 per cent from the $35,682,389 collected for the identical month last year.

For the fiscal year 1977 to date, Maryland sales and use tax collections total $736,301,193, compared with $347,481,791 in revenue collections for the samt period of fiscal year 1976.

"Our sales tax collections are currently 1.18 per cent above our revised revenue estimate," Goldstein said.

In asserting that Maryland's economic future is bright, Goldstein stated the number of sales tax licenses grew from 66,972 in 1970 to 78,524 in 1976, and the state's growth in per capita income and employment also reflected steady economic growth.

Goldstein noted the importance of the Port of Baltimore to the economy of the city and state and called for the dredging of the Baltimore harbor channels and beginning of construction of the dikes at Hart and Miller Islands.

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