—In the family

(Continued from Page 1)

Black political, social and community leaders had hopes the senator would bow to popular opinion and nominate A. Dwight Pettit to the post which will be vacated by Jervis Finney on Jan. 31.

Instead Sarbanes chose to ignore popular opinion and nominate a 35-year-old white attorney currently working for the U.S. Justice Department's Criminal Division, to the $46,000 a year spot.

There are some reports Sarbanes didn't even bother to notify the White House, which supported Pettit.

Sarbanes' action does not sit to well with the black leaders and reports from Pettit's office say that he's gotten numerous calls expressing the anger.

"Sarbanes' appointment shows the same kind of limousine liberal racism that spelled a one-term service for former U.S. Senator Joseph Tydings," said Sen. Clarenee Mitchell III. "I supported Paul Sarbanes over Tydings because I thought he would be more sensitive to the need for blacks in top positions in the federal government. He clearly demonstrated that his candidacy and subsequent election is only more of the same."

A graduate of William and Mary College and Harvard University, Baker during 1971 to 1974 was referred to as one of the "three musketeers" who along with Barnet Skolnik and Ronald S. Liebman successfully prosecuted former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, former Baltimore County executive Dale Anderson and former Anne Arundel County executive Joseph Alton.

In making the recommendation Sarbanes said he picked Baker because of his "Extraordinary demonstrated ability and dedication and his distinguished academic and professional career."

Pettit had very little to say after the announcement of the nomination.

"I'm glad it's over," he said quietly. "Sure I'm slightly disappointed I wasn't chosen, but I wasn't really surprised. If he had wanted to appoint me he would have done it two months ago."

Pettit did thank all the persons "both nationally and locally who lent their support to his candidacy."

"It has been a very interesting and moving experience to have had the opportunity to be considered for such a high office," he said in an open letter.

"But moreover I think it is a tribute to the people in the state of Maryland, both black and white, that so many of them would rally behind a black candidate for this position whereas 10 years ago it would have been unthinkable."

An interesting footnote to this episode is that Sarbanes seemingly made every attempt to avoid appointing Pettit by changing the requirements for U.S. Attorney, stating he wanted some one who was older but who had no political ties.

"The senator made so many different statements," Pettit reflected, "that after a while I didn't know what the qualifications (for the job) were."

Hildegarde Boswell, spokesperson for the Maryland Coalition of Black Women Leaders, said Pettit's only crime was being born black.

"Pettit's as good as any white that might have had an opportunity to be nominated," she said angrily. "For year's the black community has been told if competent blacks are selected they would be considered for appointment. This is not so. The same blatant racist policies still persist."

Del. Troy Brailey disagrees somewhat. He told the AFRO he talked to Sarbanes several days prior to the appointment and he was informed there would be some key appointments for blacks soon.

Whether this will please the black community is not certain. The reason was said best by Sen. Mitchell:

"Sarbanes should be warned that the black community has a long memory. The same community that elected him can defeat him."

—Wilson gets marina

(Continued from Page 1)

Wilson came under heavy attack by Pressman and by competing entrepreneurs who sought the contract. But when the fury was over he had the votes.

About objections to his getting the contract raised at the board's meeting, Wilson said, "I believe in any kind of ball game there are going to be winners and there are going to be losers."

Was he saddened by disparaging comments about him during the meeting? Wilson said, "I didn't make a proposal because I'm black, I made it because I'm competent."

But for the critical onlooker Wilson's color played second fiddle to the fact that he is an excellent businessman with ties in the community and strong allies.

Statements from City Councilman Thomas Waxter, City Solicitor Benjamin Brown, Mayor William Schaefer and City Council Vice-President Clarence Burns got the point across that Wilson was competent.

"I've sat here for two hours and listened to this," said Brown. "Whenever it gets to the place where blacks and whites are in a situation, it is always easy to say it is a question of race."

"If I didn't know Mr. Wilson some of the things you said would have made a difference," Schaefer said to one of the businessmen who had lost in his attempt to run the marina.

Under the lease, Wilson is to pay rent to the city amounting to 8 percent of the marina's gross income. Four percent of fuel sales and 25 percent of net income on electricity charges are also part of the rent. Rates for marina slips have not been set and must be approved by the city.

Mark's grandmother charged with his death

The 41 - year - old grandmother of three - year - old Mark Anthony Brown, who froze to death in the icy bedroom of his home in the 400 block East 23rd St., has been charged with homicide in connection with his death.

Mrs. Lillian Brown, 41, was arrested Wednesday night at a residence in the 1200 block Chatham St.

At AFRO presstime, she was being held at the women's detention center at the Northeastern district awaiting a bail hearing.

Young Mark died on the morning of Nov. 27 in the third floor bedroom of a house that police said Mrs. Brown either owns or rents.

Assistant medical examiner, Dr. Anne Dixon, said early Wednesday after an autopsy death was ruled a homicide due to child abuse.

Teen shot as EWF, Pockets draw 15,000 at Civic Center

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The 15,000 young people were so carried away with the mind - exploding hard rock group, "Earth, Wind and Fire" Wednesday night few of them were aware a youth was shot in the Civic Center balcony, while the concert was underway.

Sustaining a gunshot wound of the right hip and in serious condition at AFRO presstime is Marcus Kevin Oliver Jr., age 18, 2400 Llewelyn Ave., who is confined to University Hospital.

Police are searching for a male suspect, age 18, who was wearing a scarf and a gray hat and carried a hand gun.

EWF group was preceded by Baltimore stars, members of the "Pockets" soul rock group and Denise Williams, a former Morgan State University student who did a one - woman show. Both literally "brought down the house."

"Pockets" member Al McKinney, 29, on the keyboard, is son of Bishop and Mrs. Albert McKinney of the St. Paul Holiness Church and godson of Mrs. Lorraine Tucker and Carolyn Plummer all of Baltimore.

"Pockets" No. 7 hit recording, "Come Go With Me," sent the standing - room - only crowd into orbit to set the stage for EWF, the nationally famous group which literally broke the Civic Center wide open.

For nearly an hour, the many guards and policemen on duty inside could not control the yelling, screaming stomping audience. The rush to get to the stage was in riot proportions.

Police agreed the marijuana smoke was "so thick you could cut it with a knife." Few arrests took place however and those included a 12-year-old, well-dressed Pimlico youth who was charged with assault and robbery.

EWF first came on descending from the sky in huge plastic tubes. Thunder, lightning and real fire in atomic - like bomb shapes rendered their fans close to ecstasy. The crowd fell back in its seats and moaned in astonishment.

The 12 EWF men in "unreal" outer space costumes flicked off their capes and got down to business with every instrument and piece of sound equipment on today's market.

The music was deafening but the young people added still more with singing, screaming and dancing on top the seats and in the aisles from the highest part of the auditorium down to the foot of the stage.

At the end, the kids were "clear out of their minds" as one delightfully said, and EWF really did it by disappearing in a space machine shaped like a pyramid.

And then, as the 15,000 roared for more, they ascended into the clouds in the plastic tubes. It was nearly midnight before the Civic Center was cleared and much longer afterwards before the area downtown was quiet.

Other members of "Pockets," well - known to Baltimore's teen - agers, are: Gary Granger, Larry Jacobs, Charles Williams, Kevin Barnes, Irving Madison, Jacob Sheffer, George Gray and Charles Williams.

Thursday, Pockets and EWF appeared at Washington's Capital Center and then went on to Roanoke, Va. New Year's Eve they will be in Lexington, Ky.

Man gets life for killing infant

A 22 - year - old man convicted of first degree murder of a nine - month - old boy was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Joseph C. Howard.

James McClain, of the 1300 block West North Ave. was sentenced in Criminal Court after he was convicted Nov. 8 for killing the infant, identified as Phil D. Thomas, who had been living with his 18 - year - old mother in the 900 block West Franklin St.

According to testimony, McClain was the boy - friend of Debora Thomas, the mother of the boy. He had been caring for the child Sept. 10, 1976 while the mother and her friends visited a bar.

The prosecutor revealed that a torn photo of Miss Thomas and a man known only as Albert was found in the trash compactor room with the body of the infant.

The prosecutor argued that McClain was angry about the photograph and his girlfriend's activities when he threw the child down the disposal chute.

Ms. Barnes sentenced 15 years

A 28 - year - old woman who was described as a major drug distributor and dealer in the city was sentenced in federal court to 15 years in prison.

India Charlotte Barnes of the 3700 block Twin Lake Court in Randallstown was sentenced jointly by Judges Frank S. Kaufman and C. Stanley Blair.

Ms. Barnes, who said when she was arrested that she was a student at the Community College of Baltimore, pled guilty Nov. 11 to four drug charges including unlawful manufacturing of cocaine and conspiracy to distribute heroin.

The judges also imposed a total of 20 years' special probation.

Skating rink owner charged with bias

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department has filed a civil suit charging the owner of a roller skating arena in Wallis, Texas with refusing to admit blacks and Hispanics.

The public accommodations suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Houston against Frank W. Petter, owner of the Wallis Skating Arena, located west of Houston.

Col. Robinson sworn in, takes over on Jan. 4

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

"This is a wonderful occasion for the Police Department and the city of Baltimore.

This is what both Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau and Mayor Schaefer said of the official promotion Thursday morning of Col. Bishop L. Robinson to the post as the city's first black deputy commissioner.

The event at the downtown Police Department headquarters also marked promotion of Col. Ronald J. Mullen to succeed Robinson as chief of patrol.

Robinson, age 51, has had a stellar career and when he became chief of patrol in 1975 he ranked as the first of his race in any major city to control an entire police force.

As deputy commissioner, Robinson is third in command and takes over Jan. 4, 1978.

Commissioner Pomerleau congratulated Robinson and Mullen as officers "who know where it all is or where to find it."

He said the two "self - motivators" can ably relieve him of responsibility and can do an outstanding job for the city.

Robinson is credited with reducing crime in the city the past two years and as Mayor Schaefer said, "doing a momentous job" for all citizens.

Schaefer also said Baltimore should be proud that such promotions are on basis of ability and not race or creed.

Robinson who in 1975 received the AFRO's highest award, an Honor Roll plaque, was also awarded an AFRO citation.

Pomerleau opened the ceremonies at 9:30 a.m. with introduction of Robinson's son, Bishop Robinson II who announced the colonel's first grandson, Bishop III, was born the day before, Dec. 28.

Pointing to the notables present, Pomerleau named each one and made note that all the "top brass" was on the scene.

Among them were Attorney Juanita J. Mitchell of the Freedom House "watchdog" organization which Pomerleau said keeps the police department "straight"; Attorney George Russell, Delegates Troy Brailey, Hattie Harrison, Joseph Chester, John Douglass; Senator Robert Douglass, Councilman Clarence "Du" Burns, School Superintendent Dr. John Crew, School Board Member Grover McCray, Alan Quille, John Ferron, and Washington's Assistant Police Chief John Jefferson.

Among top brass were Lt. Col. James H. Watkins, the patrol deputy and District Commanders, Majors Donald Woods, Eastern; Lawrence Joseph Bolesta, Southern; Richard Francis, Southwestern; Daniel Caulk, Southeastern; Harwood Burritt, Central and Thomas Coppinger, Northern.

Also, Majors James Stromberg, Robert Norton, Clarence Roy, and McNeal Brockington, director of Central Records; Directors Dennis Hill, Thomas Mueller and William Deweiss; Colonels Maurice Guerrasio, Simon Avara, Edward Lawrence, William Rockford and Deputy Commanders C. J. Glauser and F. J. Battaglia.

Major Mullen's wife and the three children were present. Representing Col. Robinson's alma mater, Coppin State College, was President Dr. Calvin Burnett. — EMO

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AFRO Q&A

Mrs. Yvonne Burke

Ms. Barbara Jordan

Q. I understand Congresswoman Barbara Jordan and Yvonne Burke are not running for a second term in Congress. What's the word? E.M., Charles Street.

A. The way we hear it Ms. Jordan doesn't want to reveal her future plans. Mrs. Burke may be moving into another field. She also has refused to say what the future holds for her.

Q. What happened to WEBB Radio veteran disc jockey and station general manager Diamond Jim Sears? K.S.C., Francis Street.

A. Diamond Jim Sears is no longer with WEBB. AFRO Q and A tried to find out what happened to him and where he went but no one seemed to know — or at least nobody is talking.

Q. Whatever happened to Sue Simmons who did the news at noon on Channel 11? M.K., Biddle Street.

A. Ms. Simmons is doing the evening news for WRC-TV Channel 4 in Washington, D.C.

Q. Are there any black banks in Baltimore? A.M., Charles Street.

A. No. However, Harbor National Bank is in the process of organizing. There are two black owned savings and loan companies, Advance and Ideal.

Got a question about Baltimore or Baltimoreans, ask us. We'll give it our best shot or tell you who could possibly be of further aid.

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