Disco disaster

2 versions of Civic Center New Year's party that bombed out See Showtime

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 87TH YEAR

87th Year No. 42

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30 CENTS

Lottery official indicted

Nurses lifeterm lifted

The life sentence meted a 31-yearold nurse of Randallstown, convic ted of conspiracy in the contract slaying of her husband, Randolph A. Williamson Jr., a correctional of-

ficer, has been overturned. Mrs. Joyce Williamson, formerly of the 8400 block Winands Road, was first charged with hiring Lawrence M. Merrick, 28-year-old construction worker to kill her husband in October 1975. The homicide count was dropped and she was sentenced to life for con-

In a decision written by Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy, the state's highest court held that Judge Kenneth C Proctor of Baltimore County Circuit Court should have considered whether the facts and circumstances of the case warranted suspension of at least part of the life sentence.

The Court of Special Appeals reversed the murder conviction, but confirmed the conspiracy conviction. Court records state the trial judge "refused to recognize his discretionary power to suspend the mandatory life sentence or any part

Williamson, was employed as a correctional officer at the Maryland House of Corrections maximum security prison at Jessup.

Prosecutors argued at the trial that Mrs. Williamson had her husband killed to collect \$93,000 in life insurance polices of which she was the beneficiary



LOLA'S BACK UP - Tempting actress, singer,

See defails in nosedive recently, until .

Food Stamp rules benefit poorest

'Yumie' Dotson

By Fred Hines **AFRO Staff Writer**

A veteran State Lottery Com-

mission employee, Carlton H

"Yummie" Dotson 46, from a well-

known Baltimore family, and him-

self active in faternial and social

circles has been charged with

taking more than \$2,000 in lottery

The State's Attorney's office

released the indictment against

Dotson, married and a father,

ton area of Northwest Baltimore in a

He is accused of demanding a

\$500 bribe from James P. McAr-

thur, proprietor of a carry-out shop

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in the 2900 block Edmondson Ave

resides in the fashionable Ashbur

the 3100 block of Sequoia Ave.

bribes from local businessmen.

Dotson on Jan. 3.

Recipients of federal food stamps will no longer have to pay cash in order to receive them.

This new policy change means more low-income families can take advantage of the food program.

Apparently, this new rule means good news to many Baltimoreans because the Department of Social Services (DSS) has been flooded this week by families inquiring about how to participate in the

program.

"We are getting calls from people who have been interested in the program all along but could not afford a lump sum to purchase stamps," said Herbert Locklear, the chief of Food Stamps at DSS.

Locklear added that the number of people who have expressed interest and who are applying is four times the usual amount.

Carlton Dotson

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 became effective Monday (Jan. 1), eliminating the purchase requirement, and making it easier for many lower income families to , receive the stamps.

For example, under the old program a family may have paid \$80 and received \$180 worth of food stamps, that same family would now receive \$100 worth of stamps without paying any cash.

The food stamp purchase requirement was probably required because the federal government originally thought poor people were not capable of managing their own money and because special interest groups wanted huge sums spent on food, Kalman R. Hettleman, director of DSS, told the AFRO this

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Tuesday's AFRO dancer Lola Falana's career had been taking a Mitchell wants fed Hughes, black legislators subway hold first meeting funds cut

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, 7th-Md., has sent a strong letter of protest to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation over the use of South African steel to build a section of the eight-

mile Baltimore subway. In a letter released this week, Mitchell urged Transportation Secretary Brock Adams to deny upcoming applications from the Mass Transit Administration for \$85 million in funds for additional work on the subway until the Transportation Department has received guarantees that no more South African steel will be used in the construction.

"I am certain that you must share my feeling of revulsion over this situation," he wrote. "It is indeed a tragic travesty to continue to champion human rights around the world and at the same time to undergrid the economy of the most racist political entity in the world the Botho/Voerster South African

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Governor-elect Harry Hughes met formally with 17 of the 19 members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus this week, Tuesday, Jan. 2, and reassured them that he would appoint at least one black to a cabinet post in his administration

He also promised black lawmakers that they would be consulted on any other black candidates being considered for any major appointments while he is

Hughes met with caucus members at a hastily arranged breakfast meeting to respond to their concerns about the possible appoint ment of a black to the cabinet post.

Sen. Robert L. Douglass, D.-45th district, acting caucus chairman; called the meeting so caucus members and the new governor could discuss working relationships.

Hughes told the lawmakers he is in the process of narrowing down the black candidates for Cabinet position and that the announcement would be made in several weeks. The new governor also said more than one black might be appointed to a

major secretarial post. The black lawmamkers reported that Hughes received resumes from many blacks seeking positions and that Douglass said Hughes believes he has "a very strong talent bank."

He also told the group it would be unfair to name the persons under consideration until they were notified. The AFRO has learn, however, that Hilda Ford, director of Baltimore city's division of personnel is under consideration to be secretary of the state department of

Black legislators hope that minority persons will be named to the top posts in the departments of economic and community development, health and mental hygiene and hurnan resources.

Hughes did not respond specifically on these three vacancies possibilities. He did say that the persons appointed to these spots would be sensitive to minority concerns and asked the caucus to trust him for the matter

On the question of consulting the caucus on black candidates for other major appointments. Hughes told them he would come to the caucus rather than rely ex clusively on an individual influen-

Tot's mother trying to adjust to her death

Nobody said they were sorry

By Ann Sagi

AFRO Staff Writer Three-year-old Cherise Kess, of the 200 block S. Ballou Court, was sitting on a neighbor's steps eating a popsicle last August when she was shot and killed by a stray bullet from a city policeman's .38 caliber

The incident began with a neighborhood fight that flared after a seven day feud between two youths. A resident was reportedly seen carrying a 12 guage shotgun.

Officers from Southeastern district responded to the scene Two fired shots, missing the man with the shotgun.

But they did not miss Cherise. A police department investigation ruled death by shooting accidental.

Five months later, the girl's

mother and 6-year-old brother are

still trying to adjust to the loss of

the little girl. Ms. Denise Kess, 23, is also angry and frustrated because she has received no answers, no sympathy and little help from city agencies.

"Not one person in the police department or any subsidiary group of the police department did a thing. When I needed somebody I never saw them or heard their

"That's what hurt so bad. It was as if she was less than nothing." said Ms. Kess.

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AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz THEY STILL MISS CHER/SE - Ms. Denise Kess is trying to adjust after her three-year-old daughter Cherise was killed by a stray bullet fired by a city police officer. Her son Gary, 6, misses his little sister and often talks about her.

New Year kidnapping trial set

Kenneth Neal of the 5400 block W North Ave., will be arraigned in Northwestern District Court on charges of abduction and assault in the kidnapping Monday, Jan. 1 of Danielle Peters of the 3500 block

Danielle was found unharmed onday night in Annapolis at the ne of an acquaintance of Neal's. Reports indicate that Neal was d Tuesday, Jan. 2 on his own ecognizance by District Court udge Saul Friedman after the ourt commissioner set bail at

State's attorneys have refused to omment on Neal's release. Friedin could not be reached for com-

Police reports reveal tha the incident began about 2:35 p.m. New

Year's Day when Neal allegedly pulled up in a car while the child and her mother, Ms. Donezella Peters, 20, was walking to a store on the corner of Liberty Heights Avenue and Garrison Boulvard Police said Neal allegedly deman-

ded to talk to Ms. Peters. Investigators stated that Ms. Peters refused to talk to Neal and that the suspect then allegedly for ced Danielle into the car and drove

About 4:40 p.m. police said Ms Peters received a call instructing her to take a cab to Liberty Garden Drive on Liberty Road in Baltimore County or her child would be tortured and killed No mention of money was made, police said.

Police borrowed an Arrow Cab Officer Wendell France posed as

the driver and drove Ms. Peters to the meeting place Plainclothes detectives followed the cab to the meeting place where county police

Ms. Peters got into the car with Neal and Neal drove off He was stopped later in the 8000 block of Liberty Road by county police

At about 9:30 p.m. police disccovered Danielle at the home of Mrs. Patricia Savoy, 52, of the 200 block Gross Ave. in Annapolis. Investigators later determined that Neal knew Mrs. Savoy through a job he had with an Annapolis con-

struction company and that he had

allegedly took Danielle to her home and asked her to babysit Mrs. Savoy was questioned by Annapolis police and later released.