AT COLLEGE PARK

Clarence Mitchell Jr. to address Md. graduation

Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., president emeritus of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP will address some 1,525 undergraduate, 460 master's and 125 doctoral degree candidates at the winter commencement of the University of Maryland College Park, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. in Cole Field House.

Mitchell witnessed his first lynching 45 years ago in Princess Anne, Md. as a young reporter for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN. This experience helped d to lead him toward a lifelong career of working for civil rights.

As director of the Washington, D.C. NAACP throughout the most critical years of the civil rights movement until he retired last year, he worked for greater opportunities not only for minorities but for the handicapped and women.

Clarence M. Mitchell Jr.

A graduate of the University of Maryland at Baltimore with a degree in law, Mitchell will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters from the university.

Chancellor Robert L. Glucksfern will also present honorary degrees to Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences and Catherine Filene Shouse, one of the country's outstanding supporters of the performing arts. She will be awarded an honorary doctor

Handler who will receive an honorary doctor of science degree is recognized as one of the top biochemists in the nation and is known for his innovative research into the primary causes of disease by establishing that dietary factors are important in the prevention of liver and kidney disease.

AFRO Night Connections

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Kwanza calendar

DEC. 19 — Pre-Kwanza . . . Enoch Pratt Library, 909 East 22nd St., 6:30 to 8 p.m.

DEC. 26 — Akabulan Center, 2024 Edmondson Avenue, 7 to 9 p.m.

DEC. 27 — Edmondson Village Pratt Library, 4330 Edmondson Avenue, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

DEC. 28 — Broadway Pratt Library, Broadway and Orleans St., 3-5 p.m. and St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 3900 Garrison Boulevard, 7 to 11 p.m.

DEC. 29 — The Shop, 16 Pennsylvania Avenue, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

DEC. 30 — New Era Children's Center, 4516 Manadine Road, 3 to 5 p.m.

DEC. 31 — Cherry Hill Multipurpose Center, 2492 Giles Road, 2 to 4 p.m.

JAN. 1 — Akabulan Center, 2024 Edmondson Ave., 3 to 5 p.m.

—Child

(Continued from page 1)

While she was gone, Donte and the other children began playing. A toy apparently was placed near the bedroom window of the apartment, and when Donte reached out to grab the toy, he fell to the ground below.

A small blue toy was found near the child.

According to neighbors, the mother of the children, Peggy Dowdy, had left earlier in the day to visit the Department of Social Services to see about the family's food stamps, which had not arrived. They were scheduled to arrive on the first of December, but were either stolen or misplaced.

Authorities state that the child probably survived because of the rain-soaked ground upon which he landed.

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School board okays budget

At its regular Thursday night meeting, the Board of School Commissioners without making any changes voted in favor of the $341 million budget request for the 1980-81 school year.

The board which will submit the package by Dec. 17 to the Department of Finance, held public hearings Dec. 6 to gain imput from the community before voting on the plan.

But as expected the board went ahead last night and accepted the plan without any revisions to the tentative budget request. The board was urged by the city administration to keep its spending down but has given its stamp of approval on the package that is an 11 percent increase over last year.

Despite the high increase the plan does not include teacher salary increases or increases in the number of teachers. Negotiations will get underway in the next few weeks between the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU) and city representatives.

John Bethea, BTU president stated, "I'm cautiously optimistic that we'll get a good plan."

Bethea pointed out that the Baltimore city school system compares relatively low to other school systems of its size in teacher salaries and that with the 24 subdivisions in Maryland, Baltimore city ranks 18th in teacher salaries but ranks second in administrator salaries.

It is expected that a salary contract will be presented to the board by the end of January in time for the Department of Finance to make its recommendations to the Board of Estimates in March.

—Reach out

(Continued from page 1)

fortunate will enjoy a happy holiday season.

More orchids go to the William C. March Funeral Home for their contribution of $1,000. Mr. and Mrs. March have been supporters of the AFRO programs and while declining to have his picture made, stated he knew that the money will be put to good use.

You too may help. The AFRO Mrs. Santa Office will be open until 5 p.m. Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15 from 12 Noon until 4 p.m.

Mrs. Santa has $9,033, needs $10,967

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(See more Mrs. Santa Page)

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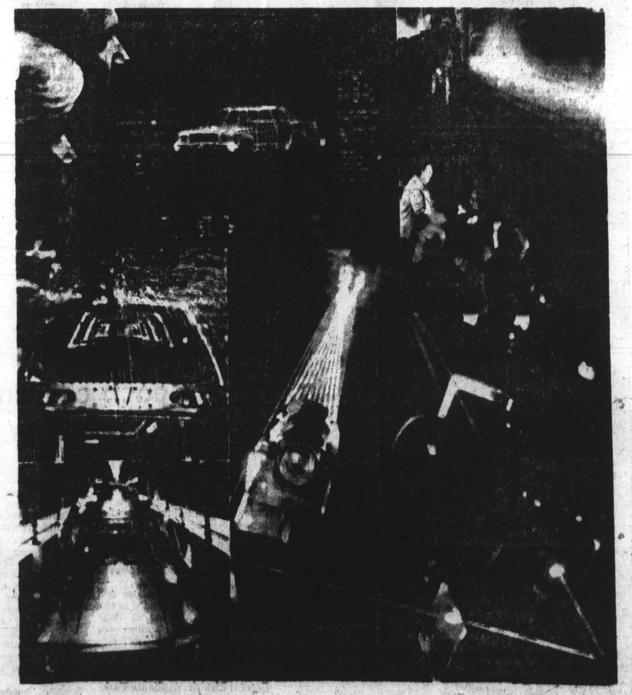

Energy hot-line office has already served 11,000

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Peggy Peacock has a big plastic trash can behind her table at the Urban Services Agency Energy Assistance headquarters at 920 E. 25th St. It is full of applications from city residents, mostly from Park Heights, who have requested aid in heating their homes this winter.

The volume of the paperwork Ms. Peacock processes is so great that when space for all the applications became scarce, she "filed" them in the plastic bag liner in the trash can.

That worked fine until one night this week the clean-up crew bundled the plastic bag out with the rest of the garbage.

When Ms. Peacock came to work the next morning, she spent some time digging through the dumpster until she found the plastic bag with the applications, all still neatly clipped together.

Now the trash can-filling bin has a big sign reading, "Please Do Not Dump This."

Ms. Peacock is one of 10 workers processing energy assistance applications from the more than 30 outreach centers located in all areas of the city.

Since the program began Dec. 3, some 11,000 residents have applied for the $250 grant per household to purchase fuel oil or pay overdue Baltimore Gas and Electric bills.

The grant may be used to buy oil, wood, coal, kersene, or propane gas or to repair furnaces. Urban Services workers contact an energy supplier to deliver fuel and the dealers in turn bill the assistance fund.

About 40 area heating oil suppliers are participating in the program, said Vera Thompson, supervisor of day to day operations.

Ms. Thompson said Payne Oil Company, located in Bentalou Industrial Park, has been particularly cooperative. They offer s-day delivery in dire emergencies in all areas of the city.

The main office processes about 100 extreme emergencies each day, Ms. Thompson said. Payne put on six extra trucks for the fuel assistance and a driver stops at the headquarters twice each day to pick up the emergency case forms.

The fund also covers gas and electric cut-offs and overdue bills. Although BG and E does not offer pre-service credits for customers, once a resident applies with the assistance program, his or her bills

If a resident receives a service termination notice, they should take it to the nearest outreach center. A BG and E representative picks up all forms at 3 p.m. each day at the 25th Street office and, according to Ms. Thompson, service is usually restored the next day.

To forestall a cut-off, residents need only show a medical assistance card or prove illness, an elderly occupant or a handicap.

Those residents eligible for energy grants are households with income no higher than 125 percent of federal poverty guidelines. For instance, a family of four may have an income no higher than $8,375. One person may earn no more than $4,250 and $1,375 is added for each additional family member.

Public assistance recipients and heads of households who qualify for Supplemental Security Income are also eligible.

Applicants must prove income eligibility with a W-2 form, a pay stub at least 90 days old, award or grant letters from the Department of Social Services, a letter from their employer or a statement of unemployment compensation.

Proof of income eligibility must be for a period of at least 90 days but not more than 12 months. When proof is not available, a declaration of income must be signed by the applicant.

visit shut-ins as soon as Urban Services adds staff, Ms. Thompson said.

Occasionally, applicants make too much money to qualify. Ms. Thompson said they may re-apply and cite dire circumstances. If they are rejected, they are referred to other helping agencies, such as the Baltimore Fuel Fund or the Salvation Army.

There is currently a week's backlog of applications at headquarters, Ms. Thompson said, and those are from neighborhood outreach centers. She stressed that applicants should go to the nearest community center so that those workers at headquarters can speed up processing.

Edward Dupree, director of the program, said he did not have figures yet on the amount of money already spent on the program. The total federal allocation for Baltimore City is $8.34 million.

Centers are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. The fuel hotline is 396-5555.

—Good father

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Agnes Squire told the AFRO, "I admired Rodney as a son-in-law. He would always take out time with his family."

Speaking of his father, Glenard said, "I don't know why they killed him. He lived a good life. My father was full of determination and he meant for me to carry on his unfinished business as far as my family was concerned."

Relatives told the AFRO, Rodney had told his wife not to worry about Christmas for the boys because he would take care of everything.

"I bought my father a salad bowl for Christmas because he loved salads," said Glenard. Police have no motive for the murder and could not say if it was drug related. Police found a greenish brown vegetable substance in a shoe box which was labeled a controlled dangerous substance in Mr. Byrd's apartment.

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