Jesse Walker in New York

Sue Simmons is new anchorwoman

Two NYC minority broadcast facilities have joined the extended controversy over cable TV franchises here because "no meaningful minority group participation exists in those who are submitting bids." The two are the National Black Radio Network, headed by Eugene Jackson and Sid Smalls and the Inner City Broadcasting Corporation, headed by former Manhattan Borough President Percy E. Sutton and Dr. Benjamin Watkins.

ON THE ROAD — Recording artist James Brown continues his national tour with a series of dates in Michigan, Washington, D.C., Virginia and New York, capped off by a headlining appearance at the Beacon Theatre in New York City on Jan. 19.

"2 - 1 Contact" is a new TV series for children who are not interested in science. Using a lively magazine format, with animation, guest stars and short documentaries filmed in 70 locations spanning the country, "3-2-1 Contact," a major daily science series from Children's Television Workshop, made its debut Jan. 14 on more than 280 stations of the Public Broadcasting Service.

Back home in NYC is Sue Simmons, one of the few native New Yorkers appearing on local TV screens as a newscaster. Sue is the new anchorwoman on News Center 4 WNBC nightly at 11 p.m. with Church Scarborough. She had been in Washington on WRC - TV since September 1976, an NBC outlet. She also worked at Channel 11 in Baltimore. Her dad was John Simmons, the popular bass player. She was born and raised in Greenwich Village and learned broadcasting by attending an announcing school in Manhattan.

The death of actress Joan Blondell who appeared in some 92 films, reminds some that her last film has never been released. It was called "Baron Von Tripp" and starred Calvin Lockhart. It was written and produced by Phillip Fenty, one of the authors of "Super Fly."

Edward "Sonny" Murrain writes a column called "Remember When?" that appears in the monthly "The Harlemite." From his latest: "Remember when 'hegees' was an immediate challenge to share a friend's goodies?.

..a family could collect an entire set of dishes by regularly attending a local movie (which cost only 25 cents at NIGHT)?.

..the cop on the beat, a neighbor, a teacher, (when most of them lived in Harlem) or anybody else could chastise you on the street (and if you were foolish enough to tell your parents YOU GOT WORSE?)"

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has announced it's going to start applying its equal - employment guidelines to public broadcasting stations and will be joined in the effort by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

William Marshall is joining Paul Winfield in Chicago's Goodman Theatre production of "An Enmey of the People" with production starting Jan. 24.

Jim Brown Jr., the 18 - year - old son of the famed football star and movie actor, is a senior at the Fulton County Lakeshore High School in Atlanta, Ga. and a star on the basketball team. He's 6 feet, 2 inches a 180 - pound guard, averaging 18 points and 10 rebounds a game while leading an 11 - 0 team, top - ranked in Class AA, with 67 percent field goal accuracy. He was MVP in Fulton County's Christmas tourney and has college recruiters drooling.

World Series hero Willie Stargell has become national sales manager for Remington's new black man's shaver division. It's a new model of electric shaver specifically designed for the skin characteristics of black males and Stargell is reported to have helped develop the product over the last eight months. Part of proceeds will go to Stargell's pet charity, the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

The Toronto Argoneuts promoted backfield coach Willie Wood to the Canadian Football League team's head coaching position, making the first black head coach in the history of the league. Wood, who played defensive back for the Green Bay Packers for 12 years, coached the San Diego Chargers defensive secondary from 1972 to 1974, then jumped to the head coaching job of the Philadelphia Bell in the World Football League. He went to Canada when he saw his ambition to become's NFL's first black head coach wouldn't materialize.

"Lagrima del Diablo" ("The Devil's Tear"), a play by Dan Owens, is the third production of the Negro Ensemble Company, playing at the St. Mark's Playhouse, 133 Second Ave., through Feb. 3. The play explores the issues of revolution, power and opression on a mythical island. Richard Gant directs a cast that includes Barbara Montgomery, Adolph Caesar, Garham Brown and Leon Morenzie.

SURVIVING AT STUDIO 54 — Recording artist Gloria Gaynor (R) recently performed two of her biggest hits, "I Will Survive" and "Let Me Know, I Have a Right," at New York's Studio 54 in a benefit for the Young Friends of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Also shown are (L to R): Ailey, Valerie Simpson and Nick Ashford, stars of the hit group Ashford and Simpson.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was celebrated at the United Nations on Jan. 15, sponsored by the Arab - Black dialogue. Speakers included the Rev. William Jones, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Judge William Booth, president, American Committee on Africa, Dr. Clovis Maksoud, UN representative of the Arab States, and Mustufa Sam, UN representative and acting executive secretary, Organization of African Unity.

Will Our Voice Be Heard?

City Councilm'n Norman V. A. Reeves (5th District) and Kweisi Mfume (7th District) join host DeWayne Wickham for a look at legislative activity in the city council and if it will help the black community.

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Is U.S. headed for new war?

AFRO asks the people

ON THE BRINK OF WORLD WAR III? — Charles Alexander: "I think the U.S. can avoid war . . ." Anita Coward: "I don't think we should go to war." George Reed: scares me . . ." Lillian Moorman: "Maybe we won't have to." Walker Hines: ". . . it's leading right into war." (L to R). For more comments,

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Teens invade church, rob worshippers

See column 2 below

Baltimore Afro-American
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KKK threatens county families

Youngest Supreme Bench judge ever sworn in

Superior Court Clerk William Allen administers oath of office to Judge Robert Bell.

Standing-room-only as Robert Bell dons new judicial robes

In January 1975, Judge Robert Mack Bell became the youngest lawyer in Maryland, ever to be appointed to a court in Maryland.

At noon Tuesday, Jan. 22, the 36-year-old judge became the second youngest person to be appointed to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

The 60 minute induction ceremony for Judge Bell was held in room 400 of the Criminal Court Building with a standing room only host of friends and associates on hand.

His seat on the bench was created by the Maryland General Assembly when it added an additional judgeship to the bench on July 1, 1979. After being administered the oath, by William Allen, clerk of the Superior Court, Judge Bell was robed by District Court Judge William H. Murphy Sr., and Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell. He was escorted to the bench by Judge Murphy, Mrs. Mitchell and his two brothers, Joe L. and Ellison Bell.

Seated to the left of Chief Judge J. Harold Grady, Judge Bell first introduced his mother, Mrs. Rosa Lee Bell to the guests and said, "Without my mother, I would not be here. She has pushed, and pushed and pushed me. She is one strong black woman."

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Black legislators send mayor a message

By Patria E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS - The Maryland Black Caucus will be putting to the test the mayor's promise of being a "new mayor" by asking that the city administration significantly increase its black participation.

In a letter sent this week to Mayor William Donald Schaefer who shortly after his election promised Baltimore a mayor who would be more responsive to the needs of the people, the legislative group outlined a number of proposals.

One proposal calls for the establishment of a minority set aside program by law with 25 percent participation required for contracts and procurement.

The group wants this 25 percent set aside program also established with the city's 11 bond issues now before the General Assembly.

In addition, the group is asking for a "one-on-one" policy for the appointments to city boards and commissions which would provide one black appointee for each white appointed. The same policy is proposed for key administrative positions.

The caucus is also asking that the city's payroll be coded to reflect race, that quarterly reports by race and sex of all new employees be developed and an annual report on the city work force showing the number of employees by race, sex and residency.

The 12 black Baltimore city delegates have threatened to block the bond issues if the mayor does not act on their proposals.

This could severely damage the chances of the bills' passage especially in view of last year's showing of anti-Baltimore sentiment by surrounding county delegates opposed to the city's

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Klan card warns 'a cross will burn on your lawn!!'

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Several incidents of probable Ku Klux Klan activity were reported by residents and the police department of Catonsville, an area which has recently witnessed a resurgence of Klan activity.

A cross was burned on the lawn of a church in the region three weeks ago, and the latest incident has area families upset.

"We're the only black family in the area," said Nellie Brown, a Catonsville woman who recently found a card ostensibly from the Klan on her car's front windshield. "I was born and raised in Catonsville, and when I moved here I didn't think I would have any problems."

But apparently her hope for a peaceful existence in the 100 block Mellor Ave. has not been realized.

The card, which she found on Jan. 22, bore a legend which read "The invisible empire, knights of the Klan. While America is being destroyed silence is not golden, it's treason! When will you fight?"

On the back of the card, a list of organizations which purportedly backed Klan activities were listed, along with an address where one could write for additonal information. At the bottom of the card was a message which

Continued on page 2

Foundation wants school strengthened

Morgan State awarded $125,892 grant

Morgan State University has received a grant of $125,892 from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and school officials say it will be used to strengthen MSU's image and spur its fund-raising program.

The Mott grant to Morgan is part of a new program that will result in at least $20 million in grants during the eighties to strengthen the nation's historically and predominantly black colleges and universities.

The Morgan grant will be administered through the Office of Development and University Relations.

President Andrew Billingsley, calling the Mott Foundation's support "a testament of faith" said, "It is especially timely for us because we need very much to spend an intensive period of projecting to the community at large some of the positive features of the 12-year-old institution which has been granted a new mandate to become this states primary urban oriented university with a strong liberal arts core, a distinctive series of graduate and professional schools and an innovative research and community outreach program."

He added that the university is hopeful that the grant will encourage other substantial donors from the private sector to give to the university in ways that will supplement state support.

The Mott Foundation's long-

(Continued on Page 2)

Juanita J. Mitchell to speak at YW's Racial Justice Day

The Racial Justice Committee of the YWCA of the Greater Baltimore Area will hold its 3rd Annual Racial Justice Month Celebration, on Sunday, Feb. 3, from 4 - 6 p.m., 128 W. Franklin St.

Observing the theme "Women on the Move in the 80s" the program will include keynote speaker Juanita Jackson Mitchell, noted attorney and activist, and long time associate of the YWCA, Mary Carter Smith, griot and historian will offer a series of poetry selections during the program.

In addition, a variety of cultural entertainment will be provided by the YWCA International Center, including a Chinese opera singer and Paraguayan musicians. The Union Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir will deliver several musical selections.

The YW's Racial Justice Center has been in the forefront working towards the realization of the YWCA's one imperative — the elimination of racism.

For three years, the Baltimore YWCA has set aside the month of February to reaffirm these beliefs. Throughout the month, local YWCA centers in the Baltimore Area will be holding special programs in observance of Racial Justice Month.

The Racial Justice Month kick-off celebration is free and open to the public. For information call 685 - 1460.

City Jail officials haven't met judge's overcrowding edict

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore City Jail officials are hopeful that they will soon be able to comply with Judge Frank Kaufman's Jan. 14 deadline for ending double-celling, or overcrowding, at the institution.

The city was under court order to end overcrowding at the facility and reduce the number of prisoners kept there to 957 by the January date.

Although the current population of the jail is 942, the numbers are expected to swell after weekends or during holidays.

According to deputy city solicitor William Hughes, the city will ask Judge Kaufman for permanent authority to double-cell prisoners at the jail's reception area and in 50 additional cells specifically for overflow situations such as holidays or weekends.

"The population of the jail Tuesday was at 942. What does happen is that there is no court processing on Mondays or during holidays, so the population has a tendency to peak."

Hughes feels that with the permanent authority to double-cell in the above measures, the city will avoid having to go to court each time the limit was exceeded.

Thursday's hearing marks the latest phase of a case that began in 1976, when inmates at the City Jail filed a suit protesting the over-crowded conditions at the facility. Kaufman originally gave the city until July 1979 to comply with his order to reduce the jail's population.

But city officials were granted a six-month extension in late July, when the population in the institution numbered 1,340.

Shot-gun wielding teens rob worshippers in church

Members of the Greater Remnant Church of God in Christ, 5050 Gwynn Oak Ave., were attending their weekly Bible class Wednesday night, when six youth wearing ski masks and four carrying rifles and shotguns, forced their way into the services and announced, This is a holdup."

The Rev. David Spann told the AFRO, the members remained calm and were told to throw their pocketbooks into the aisle.

Police report one of the youth who had a sawed-off double barreled shotgun, walked to the front of the church and pointed the shotgun at the women, while the others stood near the pews.

One of the robbers, who was carrying a white plastic bag walked up the aisle and collected the wallets from the floor. The victims told police they could only see the bandits' eyes because they were wearing ski masks and range in age 15 to 19.

At AFRO presstime, no arrests had been made. Police report seven of 27 persons lost a total of $74, credit cards and personal papers.

The Rev. Spann, who lives next door to the church stated he was on his way to the church but had to stop to answer his phone.

Greater Remnant Church was formerly located at Edmondson Avenue and Bentalou Street. Since they moved on Gwynn Oak in 1977, Rev. Spann says, "Someone broke in the church shortly after we moved here. At this age we are living in, it seems we don't have homes for our young people. All night, you see all ages of children in the street.

Members who lost personal items and money were Glenda Evans, 27, 3400 Dupont Ave; Ms. Estelle Worsham, 52, 2500 Loyola Northway; Ms. Jean McCain, 26, 3400 Auchentoroly Terrace, Mrs. Rebecca McCain, 63, 3400 Auchentoroly; Ms. Louise Underwood, 4300 Park Heights; Victor Thomas, 32, 6500 Pampano Dr. and Ms. Gladys Stephens, 31, 4500 Fairfax Ave.

Rev. Spann says he thanks God no one was hurt and when the

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