'A STRONG BLACK WOMAN' Newly inducted Supreme Bench Judge Robert Bell hugs his mother, Mrs. Rosalee Bell at a reception in his honor held Wednesday at Provident Hospital. In accepting his new post Judge Bell credited his mother with pushing him to excel. 'She's a strong black woman.'

BEST WISHES — Marilyn Brice and Veronica Transou extend will wishes to Judge Bell and his mother, Mrs. Rosalee Bell at reception in his honor.

JUDICIAL EMBRACE — Federal Judge Joseph C. Howard has a warm greeting for new Supreme Court Judge Robert Bell. Judge Howard was a key speaker at the young jurist's induction ceremony, Jan. 23.

—Youngest judge

(Continued from Page 1)

He also spoke of Mrs. Mitchell and Robert B. Watts, now a member of the Supreme Bench, who defended him when he was arrested at a sit-in protest at a restaurant almost 20 years ago.

Speaking of his years with the District Court Judge Bell said, "It is the court I cut my teeth on. While on that court, I learned a good deal about myself. I will miss the people who served in District Court, all of whom were so helpful.

"I am happy to have taken the oath today and I look forward to the challenge and opportunities the move presents. I expect the work will be challenging and I am aware of the increasing case load. I expect it to increase more in the eighties."

Judge Bell says his biggest challenge would be meeting the standards he has set for himself. "I've also tried to remember the purpose of any court is the achievement of absolute justice. I pledge myself to continue to serve the best way I know how."

Former Supreme Bench Judge Joseph C. Howard, who is now a Federal judge for Maryland and sponsor of Judge Bell stated, "Judge Bell is both popular and held in high esteem in the city. He will be leaving a position on District Court of Maryand and his colleagues will miss his services. Their loss, of course, is your gain. He brings a combination of commitment, capacity, courage seldom seen in a man of his years."

Judge Howard said he first met Judge Bell when he was a lawyer with Piper-Marbury's Neighborhood Law Office on Wolf and Monument Streets.

The Federal Court judge then shared some of the new Supreme Bench member's history and accomplishments with the audience.

Judge Bell graduated second in a class of 450 from Morgan State College in 1966. He received his law school training at Harvard and graduated in 1969 with a B average. He is a member of the Junior Bar Association, Baltimore City Bar Association, Maryland State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Monumental City Bar Association and the National Bar Association.

Judge Bell has been active in bar association activities and is a former board member of the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers, board member of Provident Hospital and several other boards.

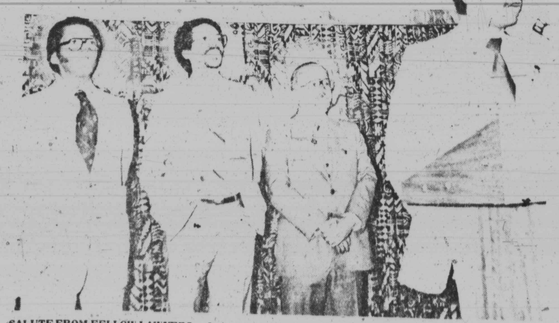
Speaking on behalf of the Monumental Bar Association was Edward Smith, its president, who said, "Every man and woman of the Monumental City Bar Association believes that Judge Bell exemplifies the highest traditions of compassion and humanity as a man and that he has an accute knowledge of the law coupled with consistency of purpose as a judge.

"It is totally fitting that a system of justice that denied him his own personal rights as an American citizen to sit at a lunch counter almost 20 years ago, now accepts him as an equal in one of its most esteemed positions. It is now totally correct that a community that he has served and loved will have the benefit of his compassion for his fellow man and his love of fairness for the parties in the legal arena."

The scommission was read by Mrs. Harry R. Hughes, wife of the governor. Chief Judge J. Harold Grady stated Judge Bell is the 102nd judge to join the bench in it's 113 years history. The chief judge also commented that Judge Bell despite his young years has already established a distinguished record of judical service on the District Court of Maryland.

On behalf of the members of the Supreme Bench and the entire court house staff, Supreme Bench Judge Solomon Baylor welcome Judge Bell formerly one of his colleagues on the District Court bench, stating that "It is a rare occasion to find blended into one man, the natural brillance, the degree of refinement, the congeniality, the capacity for hard work and the jovial attitude, such as exists in Judge Bell."

ARDENT SUPPORTER — Judge William H. Murphy Sr. (R) has been long - time friend and supporter of Judge Robert Bell and was on hand for ceremonies at Provident Hospital honoring the young judge. Judge Murphy is a member of the Provident board of directors.



SALUTE FROM FELLOW LAWYERS — In foreground Edward Smith, president of the Monumental Bar Association, extends greetings to Judge Bell on behalf of the law community at Provident reception. In background (L) are Dr. Oakley Saunders, Provident official and Judge William H. Murphy.

Provident reception for Judge Bell is sumptious

By Elizabeth M. Iver

Over 500 persons braved a downpour of rain Tuesday to attend the reception held for Judge Robert M. Bell in the Emanuel Chambers Auditorium at Provident Hospital following his induction ceremonies at the Baltimore City court house.

The event for the new associate Supreme Bench jurist was sponsored by the hospital's administrative staff and the board of trustees of which Judge Bell is a member.

Among special guests were Bell's mother, Mrs. Rosalee Bell from New York; his brothers Ellison and Joe L. Bell and their wives of Baltimore; Mrs. Rosetta F. Sands, chairperson of the Provident board of trustees: Attorney Edward Smith, president of the Monumental Bar Association and members of the executive staff of the hospital.

Highlight of the evening came as guests spoke in awe of the luxurious setting in the beautiful auditorium. A great contrast to the cold and gloom of the outdoors, the huge room was resplendent with miles of refreshment tables complete with fresh flowers, fountains flowing with punch and champagne, and a variety of banquet dishes beyond count.

The sumptuous feast was prepared by Mrs. Lenora Booth, director of dietetics and her staff who really "showed off" for their favorite son, Judge Bell, whose brilliant personality has brought him in his 36 years to the top of the Maryland judicial hill as the 102nd jurist in the Supreme Bench's history.

Carved ice in the form of swans set off the tables. The glittering aspect was rivaled only by the jovial crowd of persons from all walks of life who mingled in with jurists from the highest to the lowest courts of the state. The interracial group also saw the presence of members of the bar associations, lawyers of all races and creeds who soon made known their fond associations with Judge Bell.

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To each person it was a time of celebration.

Judge Bell did not appear weary after the lengthy swearing in ceremonies at the Court House. He had already stood in line for the aftermath of that affair to exchange greetings, hugs and kisses from neighbors, friends, jurists, colleagues and former teachers of high school and college.

Wearing the same appropriate grey suit, grey and black tie and black patent slippers with bow ties, he still sported the silver necklace with his birth sign, Cancer, dangling from it. His very plain glasses slipped now and then from a nose wet with perspiration to his broadly smiling, freckled face.

An overly jubilant former high school teacher knocked off his specks as she grabbed and hugged him and then groaned as she stopped to pick them from the floor but the lovable Judge Bell kept on smiling.

A familiar figure about town, he is characterised by his handle- bar nose whiskers and his long

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FBI hunts for 'Mr. Evil'

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

The FBI has entered the search for Andrew J. "Mr. Evil" Walker, who is suspected by the Bureau and city police as being the mastermind behind two recent kidnap and ransom attempts of Baltimore Gas and Electric meter readers.

According to Edward D. Haggerty, head of the Baltimore office of the FBI, Walker has been charged with violation of the Hobbs Act, which is a federal commercial extortion statute.

Walker, last known to reside in the 1000 block Lafayette Ave., is charged with the abduction of Daloga Chambers Jr., a B.G. and E. meter reader, on Jan. 21, 1980. Officials state that the kidnapping is similar to one which occurred in March of 1979 when another meter reader, Michael Halliday, was captured and held for ransom. One man was arrested in the lobby of the utility company after he had arrived to pick up a pre-arranged ransom.

James Brown gets down

'Godfather' bares his soul to AFRO on money, politics, race

see page 6

Happy 97th birthday, Eubie

See Showtime

Who's who at Coppin?

See Our World

Baltimore Afro-American
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'Special Lady' winners!

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Mayor nixes black caucus demands

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS - Mayor William Donald Schaefer this week rejected a list of proposals submitted by the Maryland Black Caucus aimed at increasing the number of city contracts awarded to minority firms.

The caucus also sought to get a one-to-one policy adopted for the number of blacks and whites appointed to boards and commissions and those hired in key administrative positions.

Before this week's meeting between the mayor and a special caucus committee on city matters, the group vowed to block the city's 11 bond bills now before the General Assembly if Schaefer refused their demands.

But after an early Thursday meeting with the members who met with the mayor and the other black legislators, the caucus backed down on its earlier threat and in turn accepted several promises offered by Schaefer.

According to the caucus' chairman, Robert Douglass, this was the best move strategically for the group to take. "We could get run over in committee, if we tried to hold hostage the bond bills," he said. "We just don't have enough votes among us."

Douglass also added that the mayor promised to increase the number of minorities appointed to the city's boards and commissions.

However, this promise has been made before and to date out of the 286 persons who serve on 44 boards, only 69 are black.

Some political observers have called the earlier threat to block the bond bills, a "bold attempt" taken for the first time by the caucus.

However, others questioned whether the 20-member black legislative group actually had the power to pull it off. The idea of blocking the bond bills seemed to ruffle the feathers of some other politicians including city council vice president, Clarence "Du" Burns.

He said, "Getting the bonds is very important. We're sure to benefit from it.

"I think it was absolutely wrong to put restrictions on the bonds. We need every dollar we can get. The worst thing they could do is to hold the bonds hostage for boards and commissions.

"Get the money first and then come here and fight Schaefer."

Continued on page 2

6,000 without heat in Cherry Hill

CALM BUT COLD — Denise Randolph, a Cherry Hill youngster, warms up on oven heat as city housing workers worked to repair damaged boiler which had heated some 1,500 homes in this Southwest community

Boiler explosion causes 4-day chill, community calm

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Some 6,000 residents who live in the South Baltimore public housing project of Cherry Hill, have been without heat and hot wate since a heating boiler exploded Tuesday and as the temperature dropped to the low teens.

City officials say heat and hot water will not be restored to 1,500 apartments until late today (Friday).

Fire officials report a fuel line ruptured in the power plant and the explosion ripped a hole in one of the three boilers in the plant which serves the Cherry Hill complex. The blaze was under control within an hour.

At AFRO presstime Thursday, Ms. Lisa Evans, a spokesman for the housing authority said the first temporary boiler was working and the second boiler would be hooked up by Thursday evening.

"This would happen on one of the coldest nights this winter. We had to sleep together in my house in order to keep warm. We kept the burners on our stove for two or three hours, but were afraid to go to sleep with them on," said Ms. Brenda King, a Cherry Hill resident.

Another resident, Mrs. Carolyn Brown, of the 2700 block Spellman Rd. was dressed very warmly when the AFRO went to her house. Ms. Brown was wearing three pair of socks, flannel pajamas, heavy pants, a sweater and a heavy bathrobe. The four burners on her stove were also burning.

"If we don't have heat by the weekend, I will be forced to stay with a friend," said Ms. Brown.

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MTA drivers gripe about 'stress', racism

NOT "PARADISE" — Despite what this Mass Transit Administration bus says, drivers have numerous complaints about working conditions.

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Several Mass Trnasit Administration, MTA, bus drivers have contacted the AFRO with numerous complaints against the transit authority and their union, including racism, shoddy bus maintenance and unreasonable scheduling.

Other gripes are ineffectiveness of the MTA police, wasting fuel and unbearable stress.

None of the drivers gave their names for reasons of job security.

Black and white drivers told the AFRO they are victims of racial harassment from both passengers and superiors.

Black drivers are subject to racist harassment, particularly at night, because their routes are in predominantly white neighborhoods, one bus operator said. White drivers in black areas have the same problem.

(Continued on Page 2)

Looks forward to going home

'First in history' spine patient says 'I feel fine'

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

In a soft spoken voice Mrs. Jesse Thomas told the AFRO, "I feel fine."

Since March 1979, Mrs. Thomas has been confined to University Hospital. In an operation that has made medical history, the 32-year-old mother was the first in the world to undergo surgery to replace her lower spine.

In July 1979, a football size malignant tumor was removed from Mrs. Thomas during a 15-hour operation. The tumor was detached from the spinal cord and the major blood vessels surrounding it and 80 percent of the lumbar spine was removed.

Since the operation, Mrs. Thomas has been completely immobile to prevent damage to the spinal cord and blood vessels which are unprotected without the vertabrae.

Last month, Mrs. Thomas had her second operation. A hospital spokesman said the operation was a desire to assist the healing of the wound.

Dressed in a white hospital gown and surrounded by cards and plants, Mrs. Thomas said she is looking forward to going home in two weeks. "I was home Christmas day for a few hours," said Mrs. Thomas with a smile.

Continued on page 2

Woman held in homicide

After following a trail of blood from a kitchen, to the bathroom and down 14 blood stained steps, police found Randy Lynn, 30, lying at the foot of the steps.

Police report Lynn, of the 1500 block East 28th St., had been stabbed in the chest. His body was discovered around 1:30 a.m. Jan. 30, after police received a call from a female.

Ms. Linda Yarborough, 27, who lived at the same address, was arrested and charged with homicide. Police report they have no motive for the killing, but report several chairs were broken in the house.

AFRICAN DIPLOMAT GETS KEYS TO CITY — Honorable Abdallah N. Mwidau, member of Parliament and resident of Mombassa, Kenya, shown in front of Baltimore's City Hall where he was made an honorary citizen Tuesday.

PHCC draws curtain of silence

State probing books of Park Heights agency

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

A high-level official with the state Department of Licensing and Regulation stated Wednesday, Jan.30 that the books of the Park Heights Community Corporation, PHCC are currently being audited by that department's Division of Labor and Industry.

Although an official with the department stated that the audit was "just a routine thing", sources within the beleaguered community organization state that, if the audit, reveals payroll irregularities, the corporation may have to pay all workers, both past and presentfor the past three year's, compensation pay for all overtime work.

The audit, which began Jan. 10, was initiated after complaints from PHCC staffers reached the Department of Licensing and Regulation.

The staffers questioned the PHCC policy of giving workers compensatory time off for any hours worked in excess of their regular hours, instead of paying the workers overtime pay.

In a related development, Leo Burroughs, the PHCC chief of community organizing who was fired and reinstated by the board, has been given leave with pay, pending a special meeting of the board of directors. The action, according to a source in the organization, stemmed from a grievance reportedly filed by Burroughs, who claimed that Melvin Jackson, executive director of the PHCC, and the man who initially fired Burroughs, had been harassing him since he won his reinstatement almost two weeks ago.

Since the suspension, according to a staffer at the PHCC, Burroughs has been banned from the premises by Jackson.

One source in the corporation states that the suspension was part of a move to fire Burroughs permanently. The source pointed out that, shortly after Burroughs returned from being fired, he was

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